

OIC marks anniversary voicing support for Bosnia

JEDDAH (R) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which represents one billion Muslims, marked its 25th anniversary on Monday with a commitment to continue supporting fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The celebration in the Saudi Arabian port city of Jeddah was attended by delegates from the OIC's 51 member states under the slogan of Solidarity with the People of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

An OIC declaration reaffirmed the member states' support to Bosnian Muslims in their fight against Serb forces but fell short of spelling out practical steps to help them.

Bosnian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Senad Bistic told Reuters that if current peace efforts led by the United States failed "we will ask them (OIC members) to arm the Bosnian army and to provide us with all kinds of aid."

Muslim states have been sending financial aid to Bos-

nian Muslims and have repeatedly urged the U.N. to lift an arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government but none has publicly said they will send it arms.

The OIC declaration said the member states "strongly condemned the continuing Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and non-compliance by the Serbs of international resolutions."

But it did not refer to a decision by an OIC contact group in Geneva in July declaring the U.N. arms embargo as invalid.

The OIC, which tries to mediate mainly in conflicts among Muslims, was created in 1969 following an arson fire at Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, in East Jerusalem which was seized by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The declaration said all Israeli-occupied Arab land, including East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and South Lebanon must be banded back.

It said the Palestinian peoples' "sovereignty over their homeland and their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state with (Jerusalem) as its capital are of crucial importance for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Faruq Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), accused Israel of stalling in the talks with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for extending self-rule beyond the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

"The continued faltering on the Palestinian track increases our belief that the rulers of Israel are unwilling for peace," he told the gathering.

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salama said his country "has affirmed its belief in a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option that cannot be achieved with the continued occupation of the land."

Mestiri to renew Afghan mission

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.N. envoy Mahmoud Mestiri plans soon to resume his peace mission to Afghanistan, where the government is under renewed military pressure from the Taliban Islamic militia, a U.N. official said on Monday.

The Islamabad-based official said Mr. Mestiri would begin an extended stay in Afghanistan in just over a week's time and would base himself in the eastern city of Jalalabad.

"His objective remains a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. He will first try to see what shape events are taking and then move," said the official, who asked not to be named.

To assist Mr. Mestiri, four U.N. political officers are to take up new posts in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif to keep in daily contact with various Afghan factions.

Mr. Mestiri's latest mission follows the collapse in March of his bid to arrange an agreed transfer of power from President Burhanuddin Rabbani to an interim council.

His proposals foundered when Mr. Rabbani refused to step down unless the Taliban took part in the arrangements.

The Taliban decried, saying they wanted to sweep away all the guerrilla factions, whose rivalry has kept Afghanistan at war since the fall of a communist-led government in April, 1992.

In his new mission, Mr. Mestiri will have to take into account military changes that have altered the balance of power without making Afghanistan any more stable.

In March, Mr. Rabbani and his military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, drove the Taliban from the outskirts of Kabul, biding an advance by the militants that began with the capture of the southern city of Kandahar in November.

This month, the Taliban ousted back, taking most of western Afghanistan, including the strategic airbase of Shindand and the key city of Herat.

The militants, who now control most of southern and western Afghanistan, confront government troops on front lines 30 km kilometres south and southwest of Kabul.

Opposition leader General Abdul Rashid Dostum's ethnic Uzbek forces control much of the north and exploited the Taliban's advance in the west this month to capture the border town of Torkhund astride the highway from Turkmenistan.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami, defeated by the Taliban early this year near Kabul, still holds part of the region between Jalalabad and the Afghan capital.

He has made overtures to the Taliban; mainly ethnic Pashtuns like Hezb-e-Islami, but there are no clear signs the Taliban are willing to ally openly with a man they identify as the leader of one more "corrupt" faction.

"The military situation is still unclear," a Western diplomat in Islamabad said. "There seems no immediate threat to Kabul unless the opposition can isolate it on the ground."

Opposition forces are far from united and diplomats say. Mr. Masood's battle-hardened troops appear strong enough to hold Kabul unless the Taliban succeed in their declared strategy of persuading pro-government forces to switch sides.

Pakistan, whose embassy in Kabul was panicked last week by protesters angered by Islamabad's alleged support for the Taliban, is keen for Mr. Mestiri to resume the search for peace.

Arab delegations review action plan for women

BEIJING (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the coordination committee of Arab delegations participating in the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the delegations to review decisions and recommendations by Arab technical committees on an action plan and its points of convergence with the Islamic Sharia.

The meeting also reviewed issues which aroused controversy when the conference's draft document was prepared in New York.

A declaration by the Arab non-governmental organisations (NGOs) forum was also under focus at the meeting.

The declaration stresses the unity of Arab ranks and urged conferees not to divide the Arab region into African and Asian. It also underlines the importance of family in the society and stressed the importance of women's participation in the development process.

The declaration calls for adherence to the action plans of the Vienna conference and the International Conference on Human Rights, which convened in 1993, as well as the declaration by the World Population Conference which was convened in Cairo in 1994 in addition to recommendations by the Social Development Summit which was held in Copenhagen earlier this year.

Princess Basma also received at her residence in the Chinese capital the president and members of the board of the international Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) participating in the conference.

Princess Basma highlighted the important role the society plays in serving local communities, especially in aspects related to women and briefed them on women's achievements in the Jordanian society in terms of participation in the development process and decision-making.

Japan to give \$18m to UNRWA

AMMAN (I.T.) — The government of Japan has pledged \$18 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for 1995. The pledge from Japan includes \$11 million for the agency's regular programme in 1995 and \$500,000 for university scholarships for Palestinian refugee students, a UNRWA press release said.

Japan has also pledged \$6.5 million to the agency's Peace Implementation Programme (PIP), including \$4.2 million for the Gaza Strip to construct and equip three new schools and to improve sewerage and drainage in Beach Camp. The balance of \$2.3 million has been allocated to PIP projects in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank.

Projects include constructing and equipping libraries and science laboratories in UNRWA schools as well as upgrading workshop equipment at the agency's Wadi Seer Training Centre in Jordan; upgrading solid waste disposal equipment and improving water supply for refugee camps in Syria as well as other projects in Lebanon and the West Bank.

The government of Japan earlier contributed food assistance to UNRWA, valued at about \$9.1 million for 1995 and contributed \$2 million towards the relocation of the agency's headquarters to the area of operations. The new pledge brings to \$29.1 million the pledges and contributions received by UNRWA from the government of Japan in 1995.

In 1994 Japan ranked as the second largest single country donor to UNRWA, after the United States. With this pledge, Japan is also the second largest donor for Phase II of PIP so far.

Ben Gurion's grandson tries his luck

DAVID BEN GURION, the legendary founder of the Jewish state, might be spinning like a roulette wheel in his Negev desert grave.

It seems Israel's would be "optional croquet" is none other than the grandson of the man who led it to statehood half a century ago.

After serving as a captain in the Israeli army, Alon Ben Gurion went abroad to study. Now 44, he manages a top Washington hotel and his aim is to get Israel to allow a chain of casinos. But the fact that he has lived in the U.S. for the past 20 years is in itself something which would certainly have given his illustrious grandfather great heartache.

In Israel's early years Ben Gurion often berated American-Jews for not immigrating themselves and told them they had no right to call themselves "Zionists" unless they sent their sons and daughters to join in building the country.

"It's a reflection of our sorry state when the only ambition of the grandson of the man who founded the nation is to create gambling halls," observed an elderly Jerusalem woman.

Mr. Ben Gurion is unmarried. In Tel Aviv, he said: "My company is building hotels in Cairo, Dubai, Oman and Damascus. All will have casinos. Why should Israel not cash in this way as well?"

His grandfather's abiding passion was to convince his people of the need to make the desert bloom.

He gave up politics to tend sheep at the kibbutz where he is buried Alon Ben Gurion apparently wants to cover the desert with a different green — the baize of the roulette table.

He is trying to convince a government commission that Eilat, the desert town on the Red Sea, is the ideal place for "a Middle East Las Vegas."

"At first I admit I was taken aback," said Udi Zippori who runs a kiosk where national lottery tickets are sold. "But his kind of drive is exactly what we need. It's certainly better to have casinos of our own instead of letting money flow out of the country" — The Guardian.

Anti-Islamist hawk to stand in Algerian poll

PARIS (R) — A fierce opponent of Muslim fundamentalists, Said Saadi, said on Monday he would stand in Algeria's presidential election scheduled for November.

Mr. Saadi, leader of the Berber-dominated Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) told a press conference in Algiers: "I stand for the election because I believe that against the candidates of the system, democratic opposition must run for this competition — competition which is the fruit of our struggle."

Main opposition parties have dismissed the poll and urged President Liamine Zerrouk to open negotiations with Muslim fundamentalist leaders to stifle political violence before any election is held.

Guerrillas have vowed to wreck the polls and in recent weeks have increased bombings and other attacks.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the nearly four years of virtual civil war between the army-backed government and the guerrillas. The strife broke out when the authorities cancelled an election which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The government hopes the election will be a step towards resolving the conflict. A dozen politicians have announced their intention to compete, including former Prime Minister Redha Malek.

Peace Watch says attacks on Israelis go up by 73%

EIGHTY-THREE Israelis were killed in attacks over the past year, while one Palestinian was killed by Israeli civilians, Peace Watch said Sunday.

The list does not include the killing of Salameh Azamreh in Halhoul on Friday morning, since it has not yet been determined conclusively who is responsible.

The list was released to mark the second anniversary of the signing of the Oslo accords and the exchange of letters between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat on Sept. 9, 1993.

According to Peace Watch figures, the number of Israelis killed in attacks has risen by 73 per cent since the letters were signed compared with the previous two years. There have been 149 Israelis killed in attacks since the agreement — 66 the first year and 83 the second — compared to 86 in the two years prior to it.

The report shows a sharp drop in the number of Palestinians killed in clashes with the Israeli security forces. From October 1993 to August 1995, 159 Palestinians were killed in clashes, while from October 1991 to October 1993, the number stood at 264.

Peace Watch found that the number of lethal attacks on Jews decreased last year, from 44 in 1993-94 to 20 in 1994-95. The reason for the larger number of fatalities is because of the more lethal nature of suicide bombings, which increased this past year.

According to the organisation, Hamas was responsible for 85 of the killings since the agreement, and Fateh for eight.

One Palestinian was killed in unprovoked attacks last year, 38 the year before — including the Hebron massacre in which Baruch Goldstein killed 29 — seven in 1992-1993, and none of the year before that.

The organisation's figures showed a dramatic drop of violent acts — petrol bombs, shots being fired and roadside explosives — in Gaza over the last four years, with the number dropping from 1,091 between October 1991 and October 1992, to 84 from October 1992 to August 1995. Peace Watch attributed this to the decrease in IDF and Jewish presence in Gaza.

During the same period, the same violent type of acts in the West Bank dropped from 1,535 to 422 — The Jerusalem Post.

U.S. condemns settlers' attack on Palestinians

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns strongly denounced on Monday the previous day's attack by Israeli settlers in the West Bank on a Palestinian girl's school in Hebron.

"This is a shocking act of lawlessness and the United States deplores it, unequivocally," Mr. Burns declared. He called the attack "a truly shocking, even by the low standards set by some of the settler communities in the West Bank."

Mr. Burns also condemned the recent alleged execution of a young Palestinian near Hebron as "an outrageous act," adding, "we condemn terrorism no matter where it comes from."

The spokesman told questioners "the problem of Hebron has got to be resolved by the Palestinian Authority and the government of Israel. The United States cannot prescribe a solution to that."

The Israeli government "are grappling with some very difficult issues and they're working hard to bridge their differences" in their current negotiations, he said.

While he declined to comment who asked about reports that some Israeli opposition political figures have threatened to abrogate Israel's commitments under the Middle East peace process if they come to power, the spokesman emphasised that "the United States fully supports this peace process."

"We obviously expect that all the parties involved in this peace process will maintain and meet the commitments that they make," he said. "That is a very important part of any set of diplomatic negotiations. Peace cannot be assured unless people live up to their commitments, and we have full confidence in the government of Israel that it will meet its commitments, and full confidence that the Palestinian Authority will as well," Mr. Burns said.

No radical changes seen from Egyptian elections

CAIRO (R) — Government and opposition parties in Egypt have started in earnest their preparations for parliamentary elections due in November, but politicians and experts say they do not expect any radical changes.

Government-owned newspapers have been carrying for the past two weeks the traditional election promises by top officials, such as benefits to low-paid civil servants, workers and peasants, one of the most important constituencies for President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).

Opposition parties have also been trying to organise their ranks and the leaders of six major groups have held several meetings to coordinate their local campaigns.

Opposition sources say the parties have been trying to agree on a joint manifesto to put to the public.

The elections in November — no firm date has yet been set — will be the first in eight years in which all opposition parties are taking part.

In 1990 all parties except the NDP and the leftists boycotted the elections on the grounds that the government failed to guarantee the results would not be rigged.

But at least since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1952, the government has won every election by a landslide anyway. Opinion polls show most Egyptians have no interest in party politics and that the real turnout in elections is very low.

In 1990, the NDP won 348 of the 444 seats at stake, mostly pliable independents won 83 and the leftists six. The main opposition parties, the liberal Wafd Party and the Islamist-dominated Labour Party, led the boycott.

In this year's elections, candidates will stand as individuals, out on party lists, in theory throwing the cootest open to Muslim fundamentalists banned from forming parties.

Since January, however, the government has been tightening the screws on the largest political Islamic group, the Muslim Brotherhood, indicating that President Mubarak will not risk a repetition in Egypt of the Algerian debate.

Since the late President Anwar Sadat released Brotherhood members from prison in 1971, the government has tolerated Brotherhood activities short of forming their own party.

Policy changed early this year, when Mr. Mubarak began to insist that the Brotherhood was too different from the more radical elements who have been leading a three-year-old campaign of violence to overthrow him.

Earlier this month, Mr. Mubarak referred 52 leading members to military trial — the first members of the group since 1965. The Brotherhood and others said it was to stop them standing for election, though the Interior Ministry denied it.

"We know the situation here is different from Algeria but we cannot take any risks," a state security officer told Reuters.

Osama Al Ghazali, an expert at the Aghem Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, said ruling party candidates retained an advantage through association with the network of services the state offers the public.

Iran refuses to sign end to fatwa

LONDON (R) — Iran has given the European Union (EU) a verbal assurance that it no longer seeks Salman Rushdie's death but has refused to commit the promise to paper, the committee set up to defend the author said on Monday.

Mr. Rushdie said in a statement that verbal assurances were nothing new from Tehran and described its refusal to sign a statement about the threat to his life as "absurd."

The late Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a death edict against Mr. Rushdie in 1989, accusing him of blasphemy against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 Inspector Gadget
14:30 Super Champs
15:00 Tomorrow's World
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Rahan
17:30
Teletext "Les Aventures De Nos-
tor Burns"
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
20:00 Anything for a Laugh
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 The Heart of Healing
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prison
22:45 The Blue Skies
23:45 Doc — Silk Road
00:30 F11 — Varietas

PRAYER TIMES
04:54 Fajr
06:13 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32 Dhuhr
16:04 Asr
18:58 Maghreb
21:09 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swethal, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622266.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 659322.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Hot weather conditions will continue to prevail today with temperatures seven degrees centigrade above average and winds easterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 23/37
Amman 23/37
Aqaba 27/40
Deraa 23/40
Jordan Valley 26/40

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 37 Aqaba 39, Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
A5F16H9L9M8.5
W8NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Yousef Khashid 896301
Dr. Isam Al Amas 893034
Dr. Sherif Abu Zayid 737962
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 626672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yadoub pharmacy 644945
Shuqian pharmacy 637660
Nakrath pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 947632

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Highway Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 671701
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 803200
Traffic Police 803200
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power, 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Mallat, J. Amman 642362
Palestine, Shuqian 664171/4
Shuqian Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/71
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Shuqian 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602408/0
Anat Hospital 674125
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905060
The Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Husse Modern Hospital (09)999090
IBED:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)271000
AQAHA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
10:00 F11 London, Beirut (BA)
11:25 F11 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
18:35 F11 Antalya (TK)
21:00 F11 Istanbul (EK)
21:10 F11 Beirut (ME)
21:40 F11 Doha (QD) (GF)
22:00 F11 Sana'a (YF)
22:05 F11 Algiers (AF)
22:05 F11 Larnaca (CY)
23:20 F11 Amsterdam (KL)
23:30 F11 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
10:00 F11 Rome (RI)
11:25 F11 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 F11 Berlin, London (RJ)
12:10 F11 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 F11 Istanbul (EK)
20:20 F11 Colombo (RJ)
20:30 F11 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:40 F11 Beirut (RJ)
21:10 F11 Riyadh, Doha (RJ)
21:10 F11 New Delhi (RJ)
21:30 F11 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:35 F11 Aden (RJ)
22:00 F11 Riyadh (RJ)
22:15 F11 Dubai, Moscow (RJ)
23:45 F11 Sana'a (YF)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:45 Beirut (ME)
13:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (MS)
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
19:35 Antalya (TK)
22:00 Dubai (EK)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)
13:15 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/400
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 130/100
Carrot 420/300
Cauliflower 220/150
Cucumbers (large) 120/80
Cucumbers (small) 240/140
Eggplant 230/150
Figs 300/200
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 600/300
Guava 700/400
Lemon 220/120
Marrow (large) 200/150
Marrow (small) 400/300
Mushrooms 130/80
Onion 620/700
Onion (dry) 250/180
Orange 440/340
Peaches 1000/800
Pepper (hot) 220/150
Pepper (sweet) 200/100
Pomegranate 300/200
Potato 240/140
String Beans 620/500
Sweet Melon 360/250
Tomato 100/80
Water Melon 130/80



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday meets Harold Richman, the director of Chapin Hall Centre for Children at the University of Chicago, and several national specialists in child development to discuss areas of future cooperation between the Chapin Centre and Jordan in the area of child welfare (photo by Crystal)

Queen discusses potential cooperation with American child welfare specialists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday met Harold Richman, the director of Chapin Hall Centre for Children at the University of Chicago, and several national specialists in child development to discuss areas of future cooperation between the Chapin Centre and Jordan in the area of child welfare, a Royal Court statement said.

The Chapin Centre, which was established nine years ago, is an independent centre for the research and development of policies and programmes affecting children.

Its activities focus on monitoring the conditions of children, assessing and improving existing child services and programmes, integrating data to develop a comprehensive approach that would address the various needs of children as well as promoting community responsibility and involvement in child-related activities.

Queen Noor, who is the Chairperson of the National Task Force for Children (NTFC), emphasised the importance of the exchange of experiences especially at this time when the mandate and objectives of the NTFC are being developed, the statement said.

The NTFC, which was established by Royal Decree last August, will mainly be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Children and the National Plan of Action as well as keeping Jordanian children's needs and issues a national priority.

Attending the meeting with Queen Noor were Advisor to the Queen In'am Mufti, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Acting Area Officer Sima Bahous, UNICEF Programme Officer Ayman Abulaban, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the National Association for the Education and Teaching of Children Mohammed Hassan, early childhood education consultant with the Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Agencies (AGFUND) Hala Hammad and counselling and psychological services consultant Zuhair Zakaria, the statement said.

Visiting official says Canada to participate in MENA

AMMAN (Petra) — Canada will take active part in the Middle East and North Africa conference due here next month and it will be represented by a high level delegation grouping the private and the public sectors, according to a senior Canadian official visiting Jordan.

Claude De La Verduere, assistant deputy minister responsible for the Middle East and North Africa desk at the Canadian Ministry of International Trade made the statement Tuesday during a meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

Preparations for the MENA conference and its importance to the Middle East peace process and its positive effect on the peoples of the region were reviewed at the meeting.

The two sides also discussed ways to further bolster bilateral relations in economic and trade fields and to promote the role of the private sector in achieving this objective.

The two ministers agreed on working out a programme for maintaining contacts between Jordan and

Chilean folklore dance troupe to perform in joint anniversary celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Chile this week join in celebrating the 10th anniversary of Noor Al Hussein (NHF) foundation and the 185th anniversary of Chilean independence by presenting the Folklore Ballet Troupe of Chile "BAFOCHI" in two performances at Al Hussein Ben Talal Auditorium of the University of Jordan, an NHF statement said Tuesday.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the troupe will perform folklore and modern dance as well as ballet Thursday and Friday nights at 8:30 p.m. at Al Hassan Ben Talal Auditorium of the University of Jordan, the statement said.

These performances are organised by the Theatre-in-Education Programme of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Embassy of Chile in Amman and the Ministry of Culture. They are being sponsored by Tyche Hotel, according to

Teenager arrested for involuntary manslaughter

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police apprehended a 17-year-old man Monday in connection with the death of an 18-year-old man in a road accident in Tafleeh, according to police reports.

The report said that Zaidan Mohammad Salem, who was driving a trailer in Tafleeh, lost control of his vehicle and started zigzagging.

Approaching the trailer in the opposite direction was a tractor being driven by Suleiman Mahmoud, 26.

Hanging on and riding on the side of the tractor was Younes Abdullah, the report said.

When the tractor driver swerved to the right shoulder of the road to avoid the oncoming trailer, the report said, Mr. Abdullah lost his balance, fell and was run over by the tractor. He was killed instantly, police said.

Mr. Mahmoud was driving without a tractor driver's licence, it said.

Although police said both drivers were at fault and were guilty of driving without licences, they arrested Zaidan Salem for involuntary manslaughter and reckless driving.

Teenager dies in road accident

Meanwhile, in another road accident Monday, a 14-year-old boy was killed after being struck by a vehicle on the University of Jordan Highway, police reports said.

Muhanad Gharib was attempting to cross the street when he was struck by a vehicle driven by Mohammad Yousef.

The teenager was rushed to Jordan University Hospital by Civil Defence Department (CDD) rescue units but was declared dead on arrival.

Monday's accident brings this week's road accident death toll to four. Three of the four victims were children who were run over by vehicles.

Child electrocuted

Also on Monday in the Nazzal suburb of Amman, a two-year-old child was killed by electrocution, police reports said.

The child, identified as Wisam Ahmad Abdullah, was in the kitchen playing near a washing machine when she was electrocuted, police officials said, without giving further details.

The toddler's mother, was in another room when the accident occurred, heard her child screaming and rushed to the kitchen, the reports said. Wisam was lying on the kitchen floor, it said.

An official at Bashir Hospital where the victim was taken told the Jordan Times that Wisam was dead on arrival.

Judges withdraw resignations, await government pledges

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 23 judges from the Supreme Court and the Court of Cassation who had earlier submitted their resignations have decided to repeal their action following pledges by the government to meet their demands and improve their working conditions.

Informed sources at the Ministry of Justice said the judges met Monday evening and passed a collective measure to withdraw their resignations.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker last Saturday told a group of judges led by Khleif Subeimat that the government has accepted their demands which included:

- measures to enhance the independence of the judiciary,
- amendments to legislation related to judiciary work,
- and reform of laws in a manner that would ensure a comprehensive health insurance system.

The judges sent Minister of Justice Hisham Tel a letter announcing their intention to withdraw the resignations which was to have taken effect as of Oct. 1.

All 23 judges have more than 25 years of service with the judiciary and have a legal prerogative to opt for retirement.

FAO report says Jordanian women still earn less than men

By Tina Dajani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women labourers in Jordan work up to 15 hours a day and yet earn less than men. This was one of the findings of a report recently released by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) on women in agriculture in the Near East.

While women in agriculture are primarily in charge of livestock, traditional restrictions on female absence from the home dictate that men take animals to markets to be sold, enabling them to reap the economic benefits, the report said.

The report also stated that while many women in the region were economically active in agriculture, they were not able to access credit and land easily because "lending institutions view women as high credit risks as they do not usually own land."

According to the report, this is a great disadvantage because of the increase of female-headed households as a result of male migration from the country to the cities.

Although "information on land ownership is very scarce in the region," Jordanian women seem to be better off than others in the area because female land ownership is higher than in the other countries with women owning 28.6% of the land as opposed to 0.4% in Oman and 4.9% in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the report said.

Labour-saving technology has improved the situation of women in the region both in the fields and in the home by freeing them from tedious and time-consuming tasks in agriculture that have since been mechanised, as well as by the installation of electricity, running water and sewage disposal systems, according to the report.

Higher education in agriculture is on the rise for women in the region, but this will not bring about a long-term economic change until there are sufficient institutions and mechanisms at all levels to guarantee the economic advancement of women in the Near East region, the report said.

In Jordan, however, women occupy 1.5% of policy-making positions in the Ministry of Agriculture, and comprise 21.4% of employees in agricultural organisations, while the country has two non-governmental organisations which aid small income-generating projects.

Larger projects include training women in sheep husbandry, milk and cheese production and processing, and home gardening.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

JORDAN MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICES (JMTS) IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT WILL COMMENCE THE DISTRIBUTION OF SIM CARDS, REQUIRED FOR THE ACTIVATION OF THE GSM CELLULAR SERVICE, FOR PRE-REGISTERED CUSTOMERS AT THE CROWN HOTEL IN AMMAN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9 AM AND 6 PM ON THE DATES THAT APPEAR HEREUNDER AND ACCORDING TO PRE-REGISTRATION VOUCHER NUMBERS.

Customer Voucher Number	Date Of Attendance
1 TO 200	16/9/95
201 TO 400	17/9/95
401 TO 600	18/9/95
601 TO 800	19/9/95
801 TO 1100	20/9/95
1101 TO 1400	21/9/95
1401 TO 1700	23/9/95
1701 TO 2100	24/9/95
2101 TO 2500	25/9/95
2501 TO 2900	26/9/95
2901 TO 3400	27/9/95
3401 TO 3900	28/9/95
3901 TO 4400	30/9/95
4401 TO 4900	1/10/95
4901 TO 5400	2/10/95
5401 TO 5900	3/10/95
5901 TO 6400	4/10/95
6401 TO 6900	5/10/95
6901 TO 7400	7/10/95
7401 TO 7900	8/10/95

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- Mobile handset if available. If not available, Motorola GSM cellular phones will be for sale on location.
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- A letter of authorization from company.
- The following amounts:
 - JD 21 first monthly fee.
 - JD 70 connection fee.
 - JD 150 deposit for access to international dialing.

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE ABOVE SET TIMES AND DATES. SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO COME IN PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER CARE CENTER ON TELEPHONE 863750 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Full information has been sent by mail to all subscribers.

A range of Motorola GSM cellular phones will be offered for sale on location



WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"The Pink Panther," at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

By Mahmoud Fdail Tal at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN

SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES
FILM
"Matisse," at Darat Al Funun at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery.
- * Photography of Jordan, Elements in Harmony by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House.
- * Painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.
- * "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Ali

Sri Lankan military launches limited operation against rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Army soldiers, backed by warplanes, pushed forward Tuesday in what the military called a "limited operation" in the Tamil rebel-held areas in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

About 3,000 troops advanced several hundred metres near Vasavilan town to enlarge the area controlled by the Palali military complex. They met with no resistance.

"There have been no reports of casualties yet on either side," said Major T. Dunnuwille, a military spokesman in Colombo. The operation is 310 kilometres north of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital.

The operation is meant to increase the distance between guerrilla positions and an airfield in the complex. The rebels last week shelled the runway, killing a soldier and a policeman.

Meanwhile, the rebels overran a small military post in the northeast early Tuesday, killing four soldiers, he said.

The guerrillas fired guns and hurled grenades in the attack at the post in Arisimale village in the Trincomalee district, said Maj. Dunnuwille. The post, manned by only four soldiers, had been set up to protect the village from guerrilla attacks.

Reinforcements have been

rushed to the site from neighbouring military bases, but the rebels have withdrawn, taking with them the soldiers' weapons.

The attack took place 250 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

The guerrillas have escalated attacks in the northeast to prevent the military from reinforcing troops in the Jaffna peninsula for an expected offensive against them.

In a broadcast on their clandestine radio Tuesday, the rebels warned that thousands of government troops had been transferred from Colombo and the east to the peninsula, and said the offensive is likely to begin in the last week of September, or early October.

The rebels have been fighting for a homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils since 1983, accusing majority Sinhalese of discrimination in education and jobs. The Sinhalese control the government and the military. More than 36,000 people have been killed.

Sri Lanka's armed forces have acquired sonar and anti-missile equipment to deter mounting threats from Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels at sea and in the air ahead of a major army offensive, military officials and analysts said Tuesday.

They said the armed forces

were expected to take delivery soon of more gunboats from China, patrolboats from Israel and helicopters from Russia.

The army wants to buy more armoured vehicles and artillery to strengthen its campaign against the Tiger stronghold on the Jaffna peninsula.

"The military has lost several aircraft and boats as they were caught off-guard by the acquisition of SAMs (surface-to-air missiles) and the use of underwater tactics by the Tigers," a defence analyst told Reuters.

The Tigers have their own makeshift navy, mobile radars, suicide squads and even microlight aircraft. They are also suspected to have acquired a small submarine.

Defence analysts say the rebels are targeting the military's air and sea supply lines to try to stall a looming offensive, expected before the October monsoon.

Sonar equipment bought by island's tiny navy helped avert a potentially disastrous underwater suicide attack by Tigers on a northern naval base Sunday, military officials said.

Navy sentries used grenades as depth charges to kill four rebel divers, including two women, at the Kankesanthurai Navy Base, after they had been spotted on sonar, navy officials said.

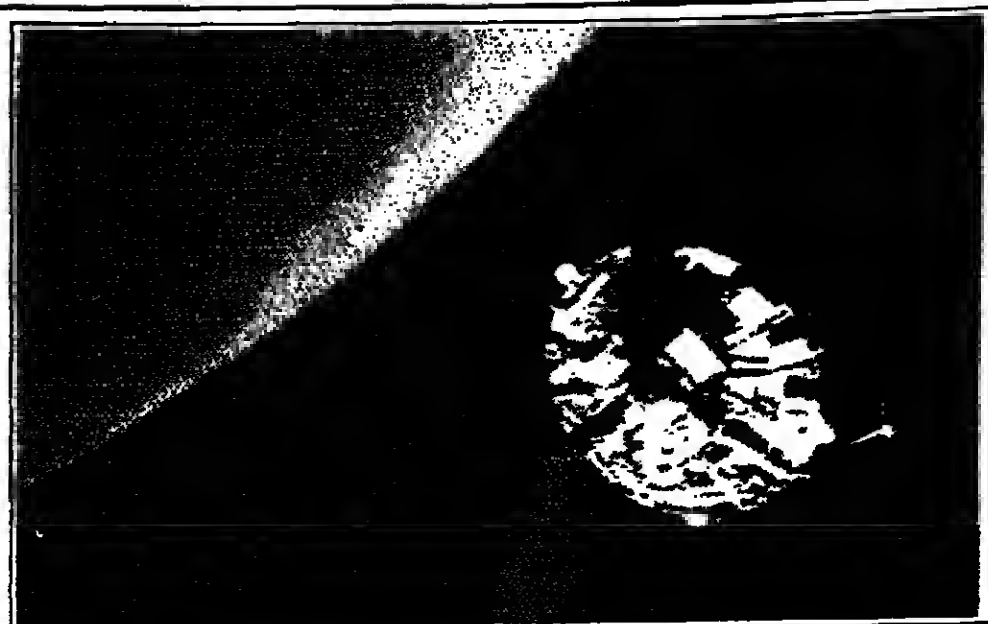
The navy has lost two gunboats and one command and supply vessel in underwater suicide attacks since the Tigers broke off a truce in April and resumed their 12-year war.

"Sri Lanka needs to build up its navy as it is an island nation and the Tigers get their arms from overseas," the defence analyst said. Sri Lanka spends more than \$600 million on defence annually.

The rebels have also downed two of the air force's Avro transport aircraft and one of its four Pucara ground attack aircraft with anti-aircraft missiles, the first use of such weapons in the conflict.

Sri Lanka's military has begun taking delivery of some of the weapons ordered after the rebels broke the ceasefire. The air force bought three AN-32 transport planes, equipped with anti-missile devices, from Ukraine in July and wants to buy three more, military officials said. It also wants to buy a squadron of Mi-17 helicopters.

"The army has gone for beliborne operations so we need more helicopters," a senior military officer said. "And we need gunships to support them."



The disc-shaped Wake Shield satellite is suspended from the space shuttle's robot arm in preparation for release (AFP photo)

Shuttle crew monitors film-growing satellite

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — The crew of space shuttle Endeavour kept watch over a free-flying electronics research satellite Tuesday as the dish-shaped craft made super-thin semiconductor film.

Astronauts overcame shaky data communications between the \$25 million Wake Shield facility and ground controllers Monday to set the satellite free from the shuttle. They'll pick the craft back up Wednesday.

Meanwhile, crew members monitored the Wake Shield, flying some 60 kilometres behind the shuttle, in case communications break up again and ground controllers need the astronauts to send remote commands.

The communication link appeared solid early today.

The 4-metre dish, designed at the University of Houston, is expected to create an ultra-pure vacuum in its wake as it plows through atomic particles in space.

Physicists are attempting to grow seven wafers of semiconductor film on the back side of the satellite. Each wafer, grown atom-by-atom over up to eight hours, should be about 8 centimetres wide and one-100th the thickness of a human hair.

Because of the expected pristine conditions in the Wake, the semiconductor

material should be purer than any produced on earth. Such film could eventually lead to speedier computers.

By the morning, the Wake Shield had produced two semiconductor films and was working on a third.

Because the satellite release came nearly two hours late Monday, the baking time for the first wafer was reduced, leaving it thinner than planned. The second film was stunted, too, because of a satellite heater that shut off earlier than expected, NASA said.

The shuttle and its crew of five are due back in Florida next Monday.

Russian spacemen return to Earth

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth Monday after more than two months aboard the orbiting Mir space station, a mission control spokesman said.

A Soyuz spacecraft carrying Anatoly Solovyov and Nikolai Budarin touched down safely in Kazakhstan, 107 kilometres north-east of the town of Arkalyk at 10:52 a.m. (0652 GMT),

spokesman Gumar Ghabdullin said by telephone.

"Both cosmonauts are in good health after landing in the Soyuz capsule," Mr. Ghabdullin said.

Solovyov and Budarin had been on board the Mir since June 29 when they went up as part of a U.S.-Russian joint space venture on the U.S. shuttle Atlantis.

were joined on board the Mir on Sept. 5 by a three-man crew, including a German cosmonaut, which will stay in space for more than four months.

The new crew is made up of Yuri Gidzenko, Sergei Avdeyev and German Thomas Reiter, representing the European Space Agency. They will dock with a U.S. space shuttle in October.

FSX jet fighter tested in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — The controversial jet fighter jointly developed by the United States and Japan underwent its first test run Tuesday. The test, of the plane's ability to taxi on the ground, was successful, officials said.

The brakes and steering of the fighter, known as the FSX, were tested at speeds of up to about 35 mph (55 kph) on an airport runway in Nagoya, 270 kilometres west of Tokyo, for about 20 minutes, officials said.

Another similar test was to be conducted Wednesday, and the date of the first flight will be decided after more ground tests, said

Hideo Ogata of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., the plane's main contractor. The prototype tested Wednesday was finished last December — two years later than originally planned.

Japan had wanted to develop its own jet fighter, but after U.S. pressure agreed in the late 1980s to the FSX project. The plane is based on the U.S. F-16 jet fighter with improvements using Japanese technology.

The prototype was delayed after U.S. officials asked for assurances Japan would uphold its promise to share its technology, such as in new materials that make the

plane lighter and harder to track by enemy radar.

U.S. officials are also said to be concerned about assuring that U.S. companies will receive 40 per cent of the contracts for construction of the jets, as agreed.

Washington and Tokyo have yet to sign a memorandum of understanding that would guarantee production of the jet, although the Defence Agency has requested a budget for at least 12 of them at a cost of about 12 billion yen (\$120 million) each.

Construction would start as early as next April.

NATO to present study on expansion

BRUSSELS (AFP) — NATO is forging ahead with plans to expand further east and will invite comments on its strategy when it publishes a report by the end of the month, NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes said.

"The first document which tries to bring a response to the 'why' and 'how' of the alliance's expansion will be on a NATO Council agenda on Sept. 20," he told a news conference here.

"By the end of the month, our partners, including Russia, will be invited in Brussels to look at the conclusions of that study," Mr. Claes added.

However, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would continue to press ahead as planned to

include former Warsaw Pact countries if they wished, he said.

"All partners will have the right to ask for bilateral meetings, in Brussels or their own capitals, to which we are ready to respond positively," he added, saying the results of those talks would be given to a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in early December.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who had previously called NATO's plans a threat to its own security, went even further Friday and said they "could provoke a war."

The expansion eastward is largely under the aegis of NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, designed to set up ties with mainly former Warsaw Pact states but not guaranteeing any security.

Ukraine, one of the first nations to approve the programme, will become the 15th to agree an individual military cooperation accord with it when Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko signs a deal Thursday, NATO sources said.

Ukraine has been stepping up joint military manoeuvres with NATO and Central and East European countries over the past year.

Cuba refuses to change course

MEXICO CITY (R) — Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage has said that the island will not sway from its Communist path despite looming U.S. pressures to tighten the embargo and scare off foreign investors.

Mr. Lage, on a two-day official visit to Mexico, said Republican U.S. Senator Jesse Helms's effort to win U.S. congressional approval of a bill aimed at discouraging investment in Cuba would not cause Havana to

change policy.

"Even if the law is passed (in the United States)... we are not going to abandon our path," Mr. Lage told a news conference after meeting Mexico's President Ernesto Zedillo.

Mr. Lage added that he was aware the bill did not have 100 per cent support in the United States.

The bill would tighten U.S. sanctions on Cuba, deny U.S. visas to foreign citizens working for foreign

companies doing business with the island state and make possible lawsuits against foreign companies using U.S. property in Cuba confiscated in the 1959 revolution.

Mr. Lage, widely seen as the architect of Cuba's opening to foreign investment since 1990, said that, despite Sen. Helms's bid to tighten the embargo, U.S. investments were welcome in Cuba.

Diana to watch Pavarotti lead benefit concert

ROME (AFP) — Opera star Luciano Pavarotti will lead an all-star fund-raising benefit for the children of Bosnia at a concert in Modena, northern Italy, which will also feature rock stars and folk musicians. Pavarotti, one of the world's most famous tenors, will sing duos with rock giants U2, Meat Loaf, the Cranberries and Michael Bolton, as well as with Irish folk band the Chieftans. The Princess of Wales will fly into Italy in the afternoon on a private aircraft to be at the concert.

World War II bomber found in lake

HAMAR, Norway (AFP) — A British bomber shot down over Norway just two weeks before the end of World War II has been brought up from the bottom of an icy lake and will be restored to original condition, the NTB news agency reported. The four-engine Handley Page Halifax was raised Sunday from the 238 metre 785 foot deep Lake Mjøsa at the end of a six-week operation. The cold water with a low oxygen content meant the structure had deteriorated little even after 50 years, NTB said. The salvaging of the bomber was funded by the Canadian Halifax Aircraft Association, which has more than 1,000 war veterans as members. It will be restored by volunteers who hope to see it completed by 1999. The Halifax will be a memorial to the 10,000 Canadian flyers who died in World War II, as well as the five members of the plane's crew, NTB quoted an official of the association as saying.

Tibetan anti-fatigue herb to help Chinese divers

BEIJING (R) — In the 1996 Olympics, China's divers may no longer suffer the effects of exhaustion caused by a tight schedule, thanks to obscure Tibetan herbs, according to a southern Chinese newspaper seen in Beijing Tuesday. Chen Yiming, chief coach of China's national diving team, is mixing up a fatigue-relief tonic with extracts from Tibetan herbs. Guangzhou's Yangcheng Evening News reported. Chen plans to test his potion on divers in competition next May and to begin regular use at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, it said. As a diver-turned-coach, Chen has been working on his own anti-fatigue formula for 30 years in the belief a swift recovery from physical fatigue helps produce the best performance. Chen visited the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, in July and met traditional Tibetan herbalists who introduced him to 10 herbs believed to have properties to relieve exhaustion, including four to rebuild body strength and others to ease mental strain. Chen reassured the newspaper that the herbs contained no form of stimulant. A stream of Chinese athletes has tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs in international competition in recent years.

Manila to invite Magic Johnson for anti-AIDS pitch

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines' Health Department wants to invite retired U.S. basketball star Ervin "Magic" Johnson to Manila next month to participate in the government's anti-AIDS campaign, a department spokesman said Tuesday. The former Los Angeles Lakers' all-star guard and U.S. "dream team" member retired from the National Basketball Association after shocking the sporting world in 1991 with an announcement that he has the AIDS-causing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The Health Department is conducting talks with Johnson's representatives and Health Secretary Hilario Ramiro expects to make an announcement soon about the proposed Oct. 26-28 visit, said the agency's spokesman, Anthony Roda.

Taiwan candidate favours direct links with China

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan presidential candidate Lin Yang-Kang said Tuesday this Nationalist island must develop direct links with China and shelve efforts to rejoin the United Nations to ease tensions between the rivals.

In an interview with the mass-circulation China Times, Mr. Lin, from the ruling Kuomintang (KMT), also said promoting independence would "only hurt and destroy Taiwan."

"Some people call me a 'traitor' for supporting reunification... but as an eighth generation mainland immigrant, I love this place in a different way from those favouring independence," Mr. Lin told the paper.

"No one has the right to gamble on the future of the 21 million people here," he said in reference to Taiwan independence advocates.

China and Taiwan were separated in 1949 at the end of a civil war. Beijing has

considered the island its renegade province since it drove the Nationalist forces here and vowed to invade Taiwan if it tries to go independent.

Taipei's recent diplomatic moves, seeking a greater international profile and a private visit to the United States in June by President Lee Teng-hui had enraged Beijing.

To serve as a warning, the Chinese People's Liberation Army staged two missile

exercises off Taiwan's northern coast since late July.

The charismatic 68-year-old Lin has mounted a challenge to Lee, 72, who is seeking a second term in office as a KMT nominee.

Mr. Lin will run without party support in Taiwan's first direct presidential elections scheduled in March. Chen Li-An, head of the powerful supervisory body, the Control Yuan, is also a candidate.

Mexico, Zapatistas reach 'first step' accord

SAN ANDRES LARRAINZAR, Mexico (AFP) — Mexico's government and Zapatista rebels reached a breakthrough accord Monday that reduces the threat of resumed fighting and paves the way for a negotiated peace.

After nearly five months of erratic and often bitter talks, both sides agreed on an agenda for comprehensive negotiations including the grievances behind the ethnic Maya-based Zapatista National Liberation Army's (EZLN) Jan. 1, 1994 uprising in southern Chiapas state.

"It is a historic moment," said Samuel Ruiz, the bishop of San Cristobal and mediator of the talks, in announcing the agreement that capped seven days of intense negotiations, the latest round here.

The sides will begin discussions next month on the social and political problems Zapatista rebels cited as reasons for the surprise armed rebellion led by the enigmatic Subcomandante Marcos.

"The progress made in this encounter is only a first step," indigenous comman-

der and chief negotiator, David, told reporters after emerging from a makeshift conference room pieced together from plastic sheeting on a basketball court.

"Our people are continuing to suffer injustice, hunger, sickness. There is no reason to have a party. There still is no real solution to the demands of our people," he said.

Jorge Del Valle, a member of the government negotiating team, told reporters the outcome "is a good technical draw: they and we got satisfactory results."

That is because each side got at least something it really wanted: for the rebels, procedural rules for future negotiations; and for the government, setting up a mechanism in which root problems of the unrest could be addressed.

While the government appeared to give a little by agreeing to an EZLN demand for negotiations on nationwide political reform, it said those negotiations would not lead to binding accords but rather to suggestions to be sent to Congress.

The EZLN had insisted

that any final peace agreement include national themes, such as justice and democracy, an idea President Ernesto Zedillo's government has opposed. Mr. Zedillo, however, has proposed for the first time an indigenous bill of rights.

In the first round of talks, set to begin on Oct. 1 in San Andres Larrainzar, four working groups will discuss indigenous groups' rights and culture.

The "pure" indigenous issue, a sometimes sensitive racial question in a country that takes pride in the fact the majority of the population is of mixed indigenous and European heritage, long has been left on the back burner.

The government classifies 12 million of Mexico's more than 85 million people as belonging to the country's 56 recognised indigenous groups, who are statistically more likely than most Mexicans to live in abject poverty.

One half of the 12 million indigenous speak native languages only, though many more speak Spanish as a second language, according to

official figures.

Analysts have said the government's attitude toward indigenous groups traditionally has been to wait and hope for them to move into the national mainstream. There is no official bilingualism policy, and all official and government business is conducted in Spanish.

Working groups were to meet again Oct. 17. One was to tackle a range of indigenous community issues: rights, guarantees of justice, participation and representation, and indigenous women's situation, rights and culture.

Three other groups will address respectively: welfare and development; democracy and justice; and women's rights in Chiapas.

Gustavo Iruegas, a member of the government side, said negotiations on disarmament would be handled at the end of the talks process.

The EZLN flexed its political muscle last week in a private referendum that showed more than one million respondents would favour its transformation into a political party.

Simpson defence promises mystery witness

LOS ANGELES (R) — The judge in the O.J. Simpson murder trial has ruled that a key prosecution witness, detective Mark Fuhrman, could not be forced to give further testimony.

But Judge Lance Ito granted the football legend's defence team permission to appeal his decision to the California state Court of Appeals.

Simpson has pleaded not guilty to the June 12, 1994, murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Simpson's lawyers have painted Mr. Fuhrman, who has refused to testify further, as a rogue, racist cop who planned a bloody glove on

Simpson's estate to frame the black sports hero.

In a day of fast-moving developments, attorney Johnnie Cochran said the defence was not in a position to rest and told the judge he had a mystery witness who would contradict portions of Mr. Fuhrman's testimony.

"There is a critical witness in this case who shall remain nameless," Mr. Cochran said. "We may want to call him (Fuhrman) back for further impeachment," he added, without giving any further details on his mystery witness or the testimony he would give.

After a morning session without the jury present, Judge Ito brought the panel

into court and told them that because of the "unusual and unique legal issues, I am not going to require the defence at this time to rest."

Over the objections of lead prosecutor Marcia Clark, Judge Ito ordered the prosecution to begin its rebuttal phase.

Ms. Clark responded by bringing on a string of witnesses who testified to photographing Simpson at work as a sideline commentator on National Football League games wearing gloves which looked the same as those used in the slayings of Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Earlier, in response to a defence motion, Judge Ito

said he would not strike Mr. Fuhrman's testimony of how he found a bloody glove on Simpson's estate the morning after the football legend's ex-wife and her friend were murdered. He also turned down a defence request that the jury be instructed to forget the glove had ever been found.

Simpson's defence also lost its fight to have the jury hear more recordings taped before the murders in which Mr. Fuhrman frequently uses the racial epithet "nigger" and boasts about plotting and manufacturing evidence.

Mr. Fuhrman had testified that he had not used the racial slur in the last 10 years.

World News

U.S. calls for expansion of U.N. Security Council to 20 seats

JAKARTA (AFP) — The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Madeleine Albright, called Monday for an expansion of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to 20 seats, with Japan and Germany as permanent members.

"My government favours expanding the (Security) Council by as many as five seats to twenty," Mrs. Albright said in a speech to around 200 academics and officials here Monday.

The U.N. Security Council currently has 15 members, five of which are permanent: the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom and France.

"We believe that Germany and Japan should become permanent members," Mrs. Albright said, adding that non-permanent members should "succeed themselves as a way to allowing important regional powers such as Indonesia to serve on the council more often."

Indonesia's foreign minister, Ali Alatas, said here in March that "Indonesia should not be overlooked" if or when the decision was taken to expand the UNSC.

Indonesia has been serving on the UNSC as a non-permanent member since 1994.

Mrs. Albright arrived here Sunday from Burma for a two-day official visit to discuss matters which include U.N. peacekeeping efforts and East Timor with President Suharto and other senior officials.

In Rangoon, Burma, Mrs. Albright said she told one of the rulers Friday that "his country's isolation would only deepen unless concrete steps toward political freedom" are taken.

Mrs. Albright said she urged the Burmese government "to choose the path of true democracy rather than continued repression and dictatorial control."

Mrs. Albright was the highest-ranking official to visit Burma since a 1988 military coup. She said her two-day visit should not be interpreted as a warming of relations but as an affirmation of American support for democracy in Burma.

The United States has cool relations with the Burmese government, which it accuses of abusing human rights and refusing to cede power to the National League for Democracy, the main opposition party that won a landslide victory in a 1990 general election.

In an effort to ease its international isolation, Burma released the League's founder, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, from six years of house arrest in July.

Foreign governments applauded the move, but have been slow to restore economic and political ties.

"They believe that releasing Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi

was a big step," Mrs. Albright said. "So I think they might have been a little bit surprised that I wasn't a little bit friendlier."

Burma's military government must choose "between its present isolation or reintegration into the international community," Mrs. Albright said at a news conference before leaving Burma.

She said the U.S. would only improve ties after "fundamental progress towards democracy and respect for basic human rights is achieved."

She met Friday with Gen. Khin Nyunt, who heads Burma's powerful Military Intelligence Service and is widely regarded as the most powerful member of the ruling military council.

Mrs. Albright said she urged the government to begin a dialogue with Mrs. Suu Kyi and was "modestly encouraged" that the military might do so.

She also met with Mrs. Suu Kyi for a typical Burmese breakfast of rice noodles and fish soup, and quoted her as saying "the sooner the dialogue begins the better."

Mrs. Albright's visit is part of an official trip through East Asia that also includes the Philippines. She heads the U.S. delegation to the fourth U.N. World Conference on Women in Beijing.

our objections."

His party has called for a stronger approach to law and order, less taxes and tougher policies against immigrants, which it fears are bringing organised crime and aids to Norway.

The Progress Party hijacked the election campaign after its spokesman on immigrant issues attended a meeting of racist fringe groups a week ago.

Mr. Hagen scored points after refusing to expel the spokesman despite a storm of protests from the political establishment, which refuses any cooperation with his party.

A concentration of Pakistani, Vietnamese and other immigrants in eastern Oslo has caused concern among many citizens in a city cut off through history from foreign influence because of geographical isolation.

Racist parties usually do better in local elections than in national polls. The next general election is due in 1997.

Norway Labour weakened in local polls

OSLO (R) — Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland's pro-European Labour Party has suffered a setback in Norwegian local elections, according to a computer projection by NRK Television.

NRK, whose projection was based on 447 of the 629 municipalities, said Labour won 31.6 per cent of the vote Monday, up 1.2 per cent from the 1991 local elections but down more than five per cent from the 1993 general election.

Analysts said the ruling party apparently lost ground to the small right-wing Progress Party, whose anti-immigrant platform came to dominate the election campaign. Labour leaders said they also suffered from the low turnout of about 60 per cent.

Mrs. Brundtland told NRK the result was not surprising since it followed the emotional referendum 10 months ago when Norwegians snubbed her pro-Europe stance and rejected membership of the European Union (EU).

"When the immigrant issue gets a dominating role in the last week it obviously has an influence," she added.

The projections showed the Progress Party won 11.6 per cent of the vote, an increase of 4.6 per cent on 1991 and up about five per cent on 1993.

It became the fourth largest party at local level and was particularly successful in Oslo, home to a large proportion of Norway's small number of immigrants.

The sparsely populated Scandinavian state has one of the most homogeneous populations in Europe. Only 50,000 immigrants, or 1.1 per cent of the 4.3 million inhabitants, come from Asia, Africa and other non-European ethnic areas.

Progress Party leader Carl I. Hagen said his proposals for stricter immigration policies had not been taken seriously by other parties, but added: "I hope we will now have a serious discussion on

our objections."

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our objections."

His party has called for a stronger approach to law and order, less taxes and tougher policies against immigrants, which it fears are bringing organised crime and aids to Norway.

The Progress Party hijacked the election campaign after its spokesman on immigrant issues attended a meeting of racist fringe groups a week ago.

Mr. Hagen scored points after refusing to expel the spokesman despite a storm of protests from the political establishment, which refuses any cooperation with his party.

A concentration of Pakistani, Vietnamese and other immigrants in eastern Oslo has caused concern among many citizens in a city cut off through history from foreign influence because of geographical isolation.

Racist parties usually do better in local elections than in national polls. The next general election is due in 1997.

Dalai Lama seeks China talks

WASHINGTON (R) — The Dalai Lama said Monday he was ready to resume talks with China on the future of his troubled Himalayan region of Tibet "any place, any time", including in Beijing.

Appealing for U.S. help in his 45-year struggle for a measure of Tibetan autonomy from China, the Dalai Lama said he feared continued Communist rule would snuff out Tibet's unique form of Buddhism. Chinese troops occupied the land in 1950.

"Intentionally or unintentionally, some kind of cultural genocide has taken place," he told a group of reporters at the start of a three-day Washington visit during which he hopes to meet President Bill Clinton.

The Dalai Lama, winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, said he was seeking self-rule "in association" with Beijing, which broke off substantive talks with his representatives in 1984.

Clad in crimson monk's robes and referring to his homeland as the "Land of Snow," he reiterated a willingness to discuss a deal that should give Tibet something short of independence — in line with a condition for talks previously set by China.

Until now, representatives of the Dalai Lama have shied away from holding talks in Beijing, where they

fear China's government would have undue say in the logistics. Chinese embassy officials did not return calls seeking comment.

The Dalai Lama, 60, said that enlisting Mr. Clinton's help in getting the talks going was the top priority of his 10-day, four-city U.S. tour, which took him to Atlanta, Houston and Boston before Washington.

Summarising his request to Mr. Clinton, he said in sonorous, imperfect English: "The urgent thing is please influence or urge the Chinese government to start negotiations."

But the Dalai Lama — whose title means "Ocean of Wisdom" — said he was resigned to the possibility that Mr. Clinton may be reluctant to get involved personally for fear of angering the Chinese at a sensitive time in U.S.-Chinese relations.

Mr. Clinton met the Dalai Lama during his two visits to Washington in 1993 and 1994, but has announced no plans to meet him again.

China protested against those meetings. It accuses the Dalai Lama of stirring anti-Chinese revolt. Beijing says Tibet has been part of China since the 13th century.

Asked whether he would be offended if Mr. Clinton declined to meet him, the Dalai Lama shrugged his shoulders, laughed heartily

and said: "No. Okay." He added that he always sought to avoid embarrassing his hosts.

The Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in India since Chinese troops crushed a popular uprising in 1959, said he would like to make Tibet into a zone of peace.

"Despite the present obstacles, I am optimistic," he said, adding he expected more progress from the next generation of Chinese leaders.

U.S. Officials said they expected Vice President Al Gore to meet the Dalai Lama, with Mr. Clinton possibly dropping — a level of contact meant to minimise further strains with China.

U.S.-Chinese ties went into a tailspin in June when Mr. Clinton granted a U.S. visitor's visa to President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, which China considers a rebel-held province.

China recalled its envoy from Washington, stalled on accepting a new U.S. ambassador and cut off U.S.-Chinese military and political dialogues.

The Dalai Lama urged Mr. Clinton to endorse a move in Congress to appoint an individual to coordinate U.S. Tibet policy.

"I want someone who can exclusively and specifically liaise in setting up any future negotiations, he said.

Quebec sets date to vote on leaving Canada

QUEBEC CITY (R) — Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau ended weeks of speculation and set Oct. 30 as the date for a referendum on the future of Canada's French-speaking province.

Mr. Parizeau's announcement in the provincial legislature formally launched the campaign on the separation of Quebec from Canada.

"Quebeckers will not vote on Oct. 30 to elect representatives. They will not vote to choose a party or government, or a programme. They will decide the future of Quebec, its political future, its place in the world."

Mr. Parizeau told the National Assembly.

"We will prepare the decision (that is) the most natural, the most noble and the most important that a people can take — to become sovereign," Mr. Parizeau said.

The date was no surprise as Mr. Parizeau had strongly hinted last week that the referendum would be held on Oct. 30. The province will vote on whether to become sovereign after making an offer of an economic and political association with the rest of Canada.

In the last referendum in 1980, about 60 per cent of Quebecers voted against seeking sovereignty-association with Canada.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien warned Quebecers Monday that a vote for sovereignty would be a "one-way ticket to separation," he confidently predicted that Quebec voters will reject a divorce from Canada.

The referendum will be the second time in 15 years that Quebec voters have been asked to endorse some form of independence from Canada. In 1980, they voted 60 per cent to 40 per cent against a form of sovereignty.

This time opinion polls show that most Quebec voters do not want a clean break from Canada but are more evenly divided when questioned on a form of sovereignty with political and economic ties to Canada.

The latest public opinion poll showed that Quebec voters are virtually evenly split on the question that will be asked in the referendum: "Do you agree that Quebec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership...?"

In the poll published Saturday in the Globe and Mail and Le Journal de Montreal newspapers, 50.2 per cent of respondents said they would vote yes, while 49.8 per cent said they would vote no. The results factored in those who were undecided or refused to answer.

Jean-Marc Leger, president of Groupe Leger Leger, which conducted the poll, said Monday that the referendum race is a close one and could go either way.

In his speech to Quebec's National Assembly, Mr. Parizeau said that he will respect the decision of Quebec voters if they vote against sovereignty.

His announcement began 35 hours of debate on the government's draft legislation setting out a framework for sovereignty for the province.

The debate, which will take place during an 18-day period, will be followed by the official referendum campaign.

Pentagon: Democracy, drugs are still challenges in Americas

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Workaday challenges of consolidating democracy and fighting drugs have replaced the cold war threats of subversion and guerrilla warfare in the Western hemisphere, the Pentagon said Monday in a new study.

Cuba, which once dominated U.S. security concerns in the region, rated only passing mention in the report, "U.S. security strategy for the Americas," which dismissed the Communist-ruled island as "weak and struggling to survive."

Remnants of the East-West conflict survive in the form of guerrilla groups in Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and most recently Mexico.

But the report does not argue for "any specific U.S. policy response other than active support for peaceful resolution."

At the same time, the last major U.S. military presence in the region and one of the most controversial — the 8,500 troops of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama — is to be out by the year 2000 under the 1977 Panama Canal treaty.

Although Panama and the United States are considering extending the stay of some troops, U.S. officials emphasise that the security of the Panama Canal is not an issue.

"There are other ways to defend the canal than to keep troops in Panama," said Joseph Nye, assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs, who presented the report, one of a series on U.S. strategic interests.

The Southern Command is to move from Panama to Miami in 1998, but core military functions would be kept in Panama as close as possible to the Dec. 31, 1999, treaty deadline, the report said. "Just 10 years ago, a tour d'horizon of the hemisphere would have given at best a mixed picture," the report said. "Now, just five years short of a new century and a new millennium, there is much to underpin hopes for coming years."

Other signs of the improved security situation in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Arms spending in the region has dropped by more than half, from 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1987 to 1.6 per cent in 1992;
- terrorist incidents have decreased by 40 per cent to 58 in 1994, and are now outnumbered by those in the Middle East or Western Europe;
- all countries in the region except Cuba are moving toward democracy.

At the same time, the report argued that as the United States and other countries of the hemisphere become closer, the potential is greater that instability in the region will have a domestic impact in the United States.

It cited the surge in boat people from Haiti during years of political crisis there and repercussions resulting from the collapse of the Mexican peso in December 1994 on international financial markets.

"Threats to stability in the region have not disappeared, although they have changed in ways that often make them harder to understand and confront," the report said.

Drug-trafficking affected virtually every major country in the hemisphere, the report said.

Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia produce virtually all the world's coca leaf, and half the cocaine entering the United States crosses the border from Mexico.

Moreover, the report said, "Colombia presents a major new heroin supply threat to the United States."

The U.S. military will continue to play a supporting role, helping to interdict

drug flights with four radar installations in the region and AWACS flights.

Mr. Nye said, however, that the top U.S. priority was to support democratic norms, including civilian control of the military in the region.

Military training programmes, joint exercises, and exchanges were some concrete methods cited in the report for promoting related goals such as respect for human rights.

Seven distinct border disputes also are potential flashpoints, according to the report, which said efforts to promote peaceful conflict resolution should be another objective of U.S. strategy.

"And in Cuba, where democracy does not yet exist, the United States faces the challenge of how best to contribute to the goal of the peaceful establishment of democratic governance for the people of Cuba," it said.

Although the Cuban military threat is much reduced, Mr. Nye said questions remained about what will happen when the Castro regime goes.

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New violence breaks out in Canada Indian standoffs

GRAND BEND, Ontario (R) — Canadian Indians gathered from around the country to mourn a 38-year old native killed last week in a gunbattle with police while across the country three Indians were reported injured in another land dispute.

Cardloads of natives streamed in from surrounding reserves and from other Canadian provinces Monday to bury Anthony George on an Ontario army base occupied by the Indians.

George died and two others were injured at Ipperwash Provincial Park in a shootout with police last Wednesday over who has the right to the valuable land on Lake Huron, about 250 kilometres southwest of Toronto.

In the west coast province of British Columbia, an Indian leader said three protesters were injured in a gun battle with Canadian police Monday near Gustafsen Lake.

The leader of the Indian protesters told police by phone that "three people

were injured as a result of the gunbattle," police spokesman Peter Montague told reporters in nearby 100 Mile house, British Columbia.

About 30 Indian protesters have set up an armed camp on part of a private ranch at Gustafsen Lake, about 450 kilometres northeast of Vancouver.

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Stand-off has to be cleared

THE STAND-OFF between the government and the Jordanian Bar Association on the conduct of their last elections in March promises to develop into a wider legal contest over the full implications of the 1988 decision to disengage from the West Bank when the Higher Court of Justice hears both sides on the issue. The court is scheduled to resume hearings on the case on Sept. 26. Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tel had contested the legality of the lawyers' elections because some 150 members resident of the West Bank took part in the elections. The central issue is whether West Bank lawyers who are still members of the bar association can vote in their professional guild even though Jordan has severed all legal and administrative relations with the West Bank. What the whole dispute boils down to is whether the affected lawyers are still Jordanians before the law or not. The government maintains that they are not and therefore can no longer take part in elections.

While we are fully aware of the decision by the Higher Court that proclaimed that West Bankers were no longer eligible for five-year passports because they have presumably lost their citizenship rights, we believe the issue must nevertheless be reviewed further by the highest court of the land. What we find troubling is whether citizenship rights can be crossed out altogether and declared ended by the 1988 decision. It is one thing to cut off relations with the West Bank and quite another to declare null and void the citizenship of the people there. The law of the land has prescribed the manner of terminating the citizenship of individuals. This much has not been done since no citizenship law was amended. Moreover, even when the appropriate legislation or legislations are changed, they may not be retroactive. This is the rule of the thumb domestically and internationally. As a matter of fact we are treaty obligated not to accord negative retroactive effect to any law. What is also of concern is whether the state can end citizenships en masse. There is no precedent under local or international law for mass denial of citizenship. These are indeed vexing legal controversies that the Higher Court of Justice can be expected to review and render its judgements thereon on the basis of the established jurisprudence here at home and internationally.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AHMAD AL MISLEH, a writer in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Tuesday tackled a meeting by representatives of Egypt, Palestine, Jordan and Israel in Amman to discuss the question of displaced Palestinians and their prospects for repatriation to their homeland. These people were forced out of their homeland in the wake, or during, the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and were never allowed to return home by Israel despite U.N. resolutions calling for their return, said the writer. It is true that a limited number of the displaced people were allowed to return following U.N. Security Council resolution 237 of 1967 but the majority of them are still stranded in Jordan and other countries living alongside the tens of thousands of the refugees evicted in the 1948 war, said the writer. Despite all the U.N. resolutions and the peace agreements with Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians, the displaced people are prevented from returning and the Israelis are holding on to various excuses to prevent their repatriation, claiming that their permits have expired, he added. The writer said the four-party committee has not succeeded in doing justice to the displaced Palestinians and it is still haggling over classification of the Palestinians evicted from their homes in a manner that looks similar to grading fruits and vegetables — with some described as refugees and others as displaced people. The writer said that the committee, which is meeting in Amman Tuesday and Wednesday, should put an end to Israel's intransigence and respect the legitimate and humanitarian rights of the Palestinian people.

A WRITER in Al Dustour said Tuesday that Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's visit to Jordan and other countries in the Middle East comes only two months ahead of the Barcelona economic conference and one month ahead of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA). Taher Al Adwan said that while the Barcelona meeting will discuss ideas about economic cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, the MENA summit will reflect the participants' orientation to create a new Middle Eastern order. Though the two conferences have different objectives, said the writer, they both consider Israel's presence and participation essential. The writer said that the Europeans are keen on promoting economic cooperation with the Arab World through the Israeli gate and they place hard conditions on the Arabs as they did with the Palestinians who were told that the European donor states will provide the promised funds to the Palestinians in the light of progress made in their negotiations with Israel. He said that it is hoped that the Spanish prime minister will discuss ways to bolster economic relations with the Arabs and help open the European markets for Arab products.

Washington Watch

No tears or cheers for Packwood and Reynolds

SOME PROMINENT Jewish leaders are lamenting the political demise of two members of Congress who have been important supporters of their domestic and foreign policy concerns.

Democratic Congressman Mel Reynolds of Illinois resigned his seat last week, while Republican Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon faces a likely expulsion vote from the Senate in the coming weeks. What is troubling to the Jewish community, of course, is not simply the loss of these two congressional supporters, but the embarrassing controversies which have brought shame to both men.

After a lengthy public trial, Reynolds was recently found guilty of sexual misconduct, specifically a long-term sexual relationship with a campaign aide who was only 15 at the time. He has also been convicted of attempting to coerce the young woman (now 19) not to testify against him, and of misuse of campaign funds.

For the past two years while the Senate Ethics Committee has been investigating allegations of sexual misconduct against Senator Packwood, he refused requests to hold public hearings. He reversed himself on this issue only a few weeks ago, but by that time the Ethics Committee's patience had run out and recently unanimously recommended that the entire Senate vote to expel Packwood.

Packwood, the chair of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, faces formal complaints filed by 19 women (at least two of whom were under 18 years of age at the time of the incidents) charging that he made unwanted sexual advances against them and physically attacked them. Other charges the senator include using his position in the Senate to secure jobs for his former wife in an effort to reduce his need to financially support her; and of altering evidence related to both the sexual misconduct and abuse of position charges. This week, the Ethics Committee unanimously found Packwood guilty on all three charges.

If it were not for the fact that their careers and elections of both men presented such unique and difficult problems for Arab Americans, it would have likely been best to watch their exits in silence. But both men, non-Jews, were so exploitative of their relationships with the Amer-

ican Jewish community that their pasts and their transgressions deserve to be understood.

Packwood, a moderate Republican on most issues, won reelection five times and had served in the Senate for 26 years. During those years he has been one of Israel's most ardent supporters, at times embarrassing his Jewish friends with his excess praise for Israeli policies.

Though liberal on many U.S. domestic issues (including, ironically, a long-term record of support for U.S. women's groups for his strong abortion-rights position), he was more hard-line than the Likud when dealing with Arab-Israeli issues.

In 1979, speaking at the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Packwood denounced the Camp David peace process and the Carter administration for attempting to "force Israel" to trade "land for peace." In his fundraising mailings targeted to pro-Israel Jewish donors, he played on their Israeli sympathies using language that shocked many.

In one letter for his 1992 reelection campaign, he denounced the Bush administration's efforts to begin a dialogue with the PLO, engage Arabs and Israelis in negotiations based on a "land for peace" formula, and U.S. efforts to sell arms to Saudi Arabia. He urged supporters to help him so that he could help Israel, concluding his letter with the following appeal:

"Instead of spending all my time raising money for my own reelection campaign, I'd prefer to devote my time and energies to protecting and defending the security of Israel."

In another letter, Packwood became even more crass in his blatant appeal for pro-Israel funds. That letter reproduces maps, the first of which shows the image of the Jewish kingdom at the time of Solomon (1,000 B.C.) which includes large tracts of Lebanese, Syrian and Jordanian lands. He goes on to give the reader a shocking one-sided view of Middle East history in order to make the point that Israel had already given up land.

What troubled many, including some American Jews, about the Packwood letter was his constant use of the personal pronouns "we" and "us" to describe Israel and Israelis in such phrases as "...only Egypt would meet with us..." or,

"...during the 1956 Sinai war we took the Sinai and then we gave it back..." and "in 1967 and again in 1973... we were savagely attacked..."

Statements such as these prompted even some major U.S. newspapers to ask, who is this "we", to whom is Packwood referring? Nevertheless, these fundraising tactics worked well for Packwood, and pro-Israel money continued to fuel his campaign machinery. In PAC money alone he raised \$110,000, placing third among the 1992 recipients of pro-Israel PAC support — despite the fact that during the first nine months of the campaign cycle he refused to take PAC money.

Shortly prior his last reelection campaign in 1992, however, women began to come forward with their accusations against the Republican Senator. (The newspaper which broke the allegations withheld the story until after election day for fear of influencing the election with facts of which it was not 100 per cent certain). While his former allies in the women's movement abandoned Packwood when these allegations began to look serious, this was not apparently the case with some elements of the American Jewish community.

An article in a leading Oregon newspaper remarked that more than one-half of the funds raised by Packwood's legal defense fund came from officers in leading Jewish organizations. "Including \$9,000 from the Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and \$2,000 each from several of AIPAC's executive board members. When asked by a prominent Jewish newspaper to explain their support, some of those officials described Packwood as a friend of Israel deserving of their support.

Reynolds, an African American, has only been in Congress for three years, having first been elected in 1992. Although he has been a consistent supporter of Israel, his loss will be felt by the American Jewish community more deeply for domestic political reasons.

What Reynolds is best known for is his 1992 electoral victory over then Congressman Gus Savage, also an African American who had represented this largely African American district for more than a decade. The 1992 campaign was Reynolds' third attempt to unseat Savage, having also

run against him in 1988 and 1990. It was the 1990 race that brought Reynolds national attention.

Savage comes from the nationalist wing of the African American community. He was an ally of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam movement and, at times, used racial themes to stir up the emotions of his constituents. The district represented by Savage and Reynolds is more than 70 per cent African American and more than 20 per cent Latino.

A few days before the March 1990 primary election (which is the most important race in the district since it is also more than 90 per cent Democratic), Savage held a press conference and announced that his research showed that his opponent, Reynolds, had received significant amounts of campaign money from many Jewish voters from outside the district. Actually, more than 90 per cent of Reynolds' PAC money, according to a major U.S. newspaper, came from PACs directed by leaders of AIPAC.

Savage, who had served his district for more than 20 years in local state and federal office, was outraged at the outside interference. What became a national scandal, however, was not Savage's facts but how he presented them. The fact was that pro-Israel PACs and board members of AIPAC were sending large amounts of money to defeat Savage; but Savage's presentation of that fact was too raw, too angry and to some sounded anti-Jewish.

Reynolds was cast in the national media as a moderate could head the "Black-Jewish relationship" while Savage was increasingly an angry and divisive figure who used his race to win support.

Reynolds lost in 1990, but in his victorious 1992 campaign he raised an unprecedented \$42,000 to defeat Savage and his other opponents — compared to the \$190,000 Savage raised to win in 1990. A great deal of Reynolds' financial support continued to come from the Chicago Jewish community. A prominent national Jewish newspaper, lamenting Reynolds' political demise last week, acknowledged the support Reynolds had received and noted that he had become a "symbol of the closure of the black-Jewish rift."

While in Congress Reynolds did all the expected things, which Savage would not do. He voted for Israel's foreign aid, and

By Dr. James Zogby

supported moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He received a position on one of the House's most powerful committees — a nearly unprecedented reward for a freshman member of Congress.

But neither the powerful post nor the campaign war chest could stop his resignation once the Chicago jury convicted him.

Reynolds was an opportunist who sold himself to win political spoils, but he exhibited no control over his own behaviour. It is interesting to note that when Reynolds first decided in the mid-1980s to run for Congress, he first went to the Arab American community for support. That was shortly after Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign, on which Reynolds had worked along with a number of Arab Americans. When Reynolds realised that Arab Americans could not provide him with the support he needed, Reynolds dropped his contact with Arab Americans and turned to the American Jewish community.

Arab Americans in Chicago had never been fully comfortable with Savage's behaviour, his antics in Congress and his use of racial division and hatred. What troubled the community about Reynolds was not that he received support from the Jewish community, but that he shut his door to Arab Americans once he took that money — on one occasion even expressing discomfort at being seen with an Arab American leader. In a sense (as far as Arab Americans were concerned), Reynolds' behaviour was as divisive and race-based as that of the candidate he eventually defeated.

What is troubling about both Packwood and Reynolds is how narrow their definition of service turned out to be. To not speak to Arab Americans, to be more pro-Israel than the Likud, to see the quest for power and position as an end in itself: These are not qualities of leadership. Reynolds and Packwood are not losses to lament, they are examples of the tragic consequences of an electoral system and a political process gone awry. It was their abuse of women who brought them down — but it was their short-sighted abuse of their political positions and the amoral quest for power they shared that laid the groundwork for their later actions.

That is what we should all be lamenting.

It Occured to me

By Ali Kassay

Entertaining ourselves to death

ONE OF the greatest tragedies of our times is the change in people's mores. Take the film industry, for instance. During my childhood and youth, film heroes were men and women who took a gallant stand on principle and, sometimes, came to a sticky end for it. Every healthy child knew what made a good movie: There had to be a lot of fighting that climaxed in an epic struggle, at the end of which the hero came out on top.

In those days heroes were made to inspire Mr. Average, with 2.5 children, a mortgage, and a car on hire purchase. The cinema gave him an escape mechanism from the humdrum of everyday life — a safety valve against depression and insanity, if you want. Then, to our chagrin, movie makers discovered reality and became obsessed with it. Today's film hero seems to be Mr. Average himself. Over an hour and a half we are treated to a review of how he contrived to make a perfect hash of his life, then our agony comes to an end when he dies of AIDS. In case of a happy ending, the hero's spouse, who had run away at some point, returns and forgives him seconds before he perishes.

No one suffers from this new genre of movies more than Jordan Television and its viewers. TV planners, to be fair to them, are caught between a bummer and a hard place. First, they need to buy programmes. These are sold in packages, and the cheaper the package, the more the "social dramas". In our financially strapped times one has to take the rough with the smooth. At the same time the vigilant moral censor would raise the hue and cry at the slightest hint of intimacy on the screen, be it portrayed decently or otherwise. As a result, viewers are treated to an uninspiring fare which is largely limited to reruns of "Murder She Wrote", and tragedies about losing a relative. In the nineties they die of Aids.

I ask you! After a week's hard work, when one collapses in his easy chair, musters all his reserves of energy to point the remote control at the box, and presses the button, is he seeking to be depressed? Is he eager to watch yet another case of child abuse, broken marriage or slow and painful death of fatal disease? Has he not enough problems of his own? Really, who makes these movies, and why? Would the scriptwriters, actors and directors devote their end-of-the-week evening to hear about the viewer's problems? Seriously, why inflict such films on us? Whatever happened to movies in which the hero's horse never runs tired and his gun never runs empty? Social dramas like those described above are splendid for mid-week viewing, as treatment against insomnia. On Thursday night, however, why not show an old classic? There are hundreds of high quality films without a hint of nudity, where violence is not explicit and which make for splendid family entertainment. A film does not have to be painfully boring to be considered fit for the family, does it?

A nation out of turn with the rest of the world

France has exploded not just the seabed, but its self-image, says Mary Dejevsky

TO BE editor of a French news organisation last week must have been an unenviable job. There was looting and burning in Gauguin's Pacific paradise of Tahiti; two of the most idyllic islands in the French Caribbean had been devastated by hurricane Luis, and almost everywhere else on the globe was throbbing with virulent anti-French protests following France's first nuclear test for three-and-a-half years.

Even in mainland France there was the prospect of manhem to come as mollycoddled public-sector workers spoke of their fury and frustration at being told to accept a pay freeze next year. Widespread labour unrest looms for the winter.

All this in the space of a few days has been a rude shock for France and for the French, who are used to thinking of themselves and their country as quiet, cultured, self-contained and utterly irreproachable, whether in appreciation of the better things of life or in observance of universal values such as freedom and human rights.

Their tranquil existence might have been in-

rupted periodically by farmers' protests and occasionally by a student revolt, but these were home-grown distractions; they did not seriously challenge France's view of itself or the world outside. Most particularly they did not challenge France's sense of its own superiority; they even helped to confirm it. Their farmers' produce might be more expensive, but it was better; their students might be rioting, but revolution was a French prerogative necessary to the renewal of the social order.

This time, though, it is precisely this sense of national superiority that is being attacked. From Tokyo to Washington, from Sydney to London, there are placards of President Chirac with a Hitler moustache; French wine is being poured into dustbins. The nation that thought of itself as having attained the height of civilisation is being portrayed as barbaric. What is more, France has had to pay heed.

On Thursday the Defence Minister, Charles Millon, managed in one short set of remarks to call for respect for law and "the republican

order" in Tahiti, to offer talks with pro-independence groups there, to pledge more troops to the island, and to insist that France would proceed with "seven or eight nuclear tests" for the sake of French "and European" security.

The contradictions in his remarks clearly derived from the need he saw to address several different groups of people: the rioters on an island which is constitutionally part of France, the law and order lobby in mainland France (which is most of his party and many others besides), the defence establishment, and the outside world. Where once a haughty "no comment: France will do what France must do" might have sufficed, this is clearly no longer so.

So what has happened to France? The short, superficial answer to this question is: Jacques Chirac. In four months, France's new president has given politicians the world over a lesson in how not to win friends and influence people. His decision to resume nuclear tests as almost the first act of his presidency is only the most egregious of his essays in statesmanship.

It may be true, as Mr. Chirac has contended, that he had no choice about the timing of the announcement or the timing of the tests, as both were dictated by the need to complete the series in time to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty next year. His apparent assumption that France could avoid being put in the world's dock because it was France and because French nuclear tests were somehow more justifiable than other people's

tests, however, showed a serious misunderstanding of the post-cold war world.

As his falling ratings in domestic opinion polls show even his own voters are not quite sure what they have let themselves in for. They elected him to tackle what he, and they, saw as their growing problems, unemployment and, above all, divisions in society. Now they find themselves pilloried for their nuclear defence policy not only from predictable quarters, but by countries as remote from France in every respect as the Philippines and Chile.

It is not only France's nuclear defence policy, however, or even the fact of the nuclear tests that is being pilloried, but France's insensitivity to what the rest of the world thinks. The rioting in Tahiti was inspired, as Oscar Temaru, the leader of French Polynesia's small independence movement, put it, "humiliation, frustration and anger."

French officials may argue that the violence was deliberately instigated, as well as it may have been, but this does not alter the fact that hundreds of Tahitians were out on the streets looting and burning, that their anger was directed against the French authorities, and that hundreds more were watching them without protesting.

Nor does it alter the fact that a single decision by the president of France, which has been widely judged — as one French commentator put it — "out of harmony with the age," has at a stroke inspired thousands of consumers worldwide to boycott French goods; harmed — probably for a very long time

— France's prized diplomatic role, especially in the Far East and Australia, but probably also in many parts of Europe; and last but not least, immeasurably strengthened an anti-colonial movement in a remote part of the world that is none the less an integral part of France.

The increasingly defensive statements from French officials in the past two days have shown that last week's nuclear test at Mururoa, atoll exploded more than a hunk of hasalt seabed. It exploded many of France's favourite assumptions about itself and its place in the world: its embodiment of civilised values, its consummate practice of the diplomatic arts, its role as a paternal and benevolent colonial power; above all, its confident nationalism.

Mr. Chirac has talked often about a sovereign and independent France. The purpose of his nuclear test series, he insisted, was to ensure French security and preserve that independence. But global communications and global agitation, whether by environmental groups or others, mean that the policy of almost any national government is now circumscribed. No country with international aspirations can escape the judgement of public opinion; not just its own, but that of the many other countries with which it maintains diplomatic and economic relations.

So, Mesdames et Messieurs, and Monsieur le President de la Republique, welcome to the real world! You have taken your time arriving.

The Independent

Spanish premier ends visit

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Mr. Gonzalez, whose country currently chairs the EU, reaffirmed the European bloc's commitment to supporting the Middle East peace process and economic development of the region.

Also discussed were Jordan's relations with EU as well as Spain, a proposed partnership agreement between Jordan and the EU.

Mr. Gonzalez indicated that Spain might extend debt relief to Jordan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said without details.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Gonzalez discussed a proposal to set up a Middle East development bank to finance regional projects. Israeli newspapers reported Tuesday that Mr. Gonzalez had told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the EU was likely to reject the proposal.

King Hussein and Mr. Gonzalez summed up the outcome of his talks at a joint press conference shortly before the Spanish premier's departure for Syria.

"All matters of mutual interest were discussed — bilateral relations, the peace process and events in the region," the King said in an opening statement.

Describing Mr. Gonzalez as a "dear friend I always admired over the years" and Jordanian-Spanish friendship as something he "treasured and cherished," the King said the Spanish leader's visit had come at a "historic moment" not only for the Middle East but also for Europe.

Mr. Gonzalez, who visited Israel and the Palestinian self-ruled Gaza Strip before arriving here late Monday, paid tribute to the King's "tremendous political vision and courage to defend the peace process and said his visit to Jordan was 'perhaps... the most fruitful phase of our trip to the Middle East'."

"In addition to our bilateral relations, the European Union has mandated me to come here to see if we can explore ways of helping the peace process politically and economically," Mr. Gonzalez said in Spanish through Arabic and English interpreters.

Spain itself and the European Union in general will be actively participating in the MENA summit, where regional economic cooperation, infrastructure and development projects and business opportunities in the region will be the key themes, Mr. Gonzalez said.

He also referred to a proposed partnership agreement between Jordan and the European Union and expressed hope that "we hope to finalise it as soon as possible." It is expected that the accord will be signed in 1996.

The King said Syria's decision to attend a EU meeting in Barcelona, Spain, in November of EU member countries and 12 non-EU Mediterranean countries was a "step forward," given that Syria has been staying away from meetings on regional cooperation as part of the Arab-Israeli peace process (Syria will not be attending the MENA summit either).

"But we hope (the Syrian decision to attend the Barcelona conference) will be followed by many others because we are seeking a comprehensive peace in the region," the King added.

Mr. Gonzalez said he was not carrying any Israeli message to Syria to break the impasse in Syrian-Israeli peace talks, but said "it is imperative that the peace process pick up in places where negotiations are deadlocked."

The Spanish leader, who held talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders before coming here, said he had no confirmation that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation had set Sept. 21 as the date for signing an agreement on expanding self-rule to the West Bank.

Crown Prince Hassan held talks with Mr. Gonzalez over breakfast Tuesday morning. The key theme for discussions was Jordan's vision of relations and economic cooperation with Europe, including Spain, and potential for foreign investments in the Kingdom.

In a separate meeting, Sharif Zeid and Mr. Gonzalez reviewed Jordan's key role in the region and preparations for the MENA summit and said both Spanish public and private sectors would take an active part in the conference.

Meanwhile, reporting on prospects for the proposed Middle East development bank, Israel's English-language daily Jerusalem Post said Tuesday that Mr. Gonzalez had told Mr. Rabin that the proposal was unlikely to be realised.

"Gonzalez told the prime minister that most of the European countries are against the development bank," the Post quoted an unidentified Rabin aide as saying. "While saying that a formal decision has yet to be taken, he made it clear that it does not look good at all."

Mr. Gonzalez's statement carries a lot of weight, as Spain currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the EU, and the EU holds an effective veto over the establishment of such a body. A decision on the bank must be made within the next six weeks, before the regional economic summit convenes in Amman. The development bank was expected to be central to plans for financing of infrastructure projects.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has been active for the last two years in pressing for a development bank, has yet to give up. His meeting with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris (Sunday) is seen as a last-ditch effort to save the bank by winning French support for the concept.

Mr. Peres's remarks to reporters after the meeting suggest that he did not bring Mr. Chirac around. He said that France favoured other ideas over a bank.

A senior finance ministry official said that Germany, the EU's leading financial power, has been leading the drive against the establishment of a bank.

Finance ministry officials admit that if EU rejects the idea of a development bank now, it will have effectively killed the idea for the foreseeable future.

"The Americans and Japanese have signalled willingness to provide their share, but on the condition that the establishment of such a bank can only be by consensus of the key countries. In other words, if the EU, which would be putting in a chunk of the funds, does not want it, it will not happen," the official said.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Monday requested EU support in his negotiations with Israel on the West Bank autonomy deal.

"I call on the European Union and the entire world to help effectively and constructively in reaching very quickly an agreement," Mr. Arafat said after a 2½ hour meeting with Mr. Gonzalez.

In a rare gesture, the Palestinian leader travelled to the Israel-Gaza border crossing to greet Mr. Gonzalez. They then drove through Gaza City streets bedecked with Spanish and Palestinian flags.

Mr. Gonzalez, on a four-day tour of the region, said Mr. Arafat "asked me to make pressures" to reach the much-delayed West Bank deal.

"We are helping make the views of the two parties closer," he said, but stressed the differences "should be solved by the parties themselves."

Mr. Gonzalez's trip comes at a time when Europeans are seeking a broader role in the Middle East peace process.

To occupied Jerusalem Monday, Mr. Gonzalez reiterated the EU's commitment to coordinating international monitoring of Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza expected by year's end.

"The European Union is committed to sending observers and to coordinating (them)," Mr. Gonzalez said after meeting with Mr. Rabin. "Also, funding has already been earmarked for the elections."

Hussein Kamel: There should be pluralism and political parties in Iraq

FOLLOWING IS the full text of an interview that Iraqi former Minister of Industries Hussein Kamel gave to Time Magazine. The interview appeared in this week's edition of the magazine.

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Time: But doesn't it require leadership by the army?

Hussein Kamel: This is true. The catalyst will be for the people to join the army in taking the initiative. All the Iraqi people are armed. Everybody is now ready. But there are things that must be done before the first spark is ignited.

Time: Do you think you are a target of assassination?

Hussein Kamel: I know the regime in Iraq, I knew even before my departure that they would be ready to set aside the entire Iraqi budget to eliminate Hussein Kamel.

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Hus

OPEC hope of higher output ceiling dashed by chronic cheating

LONDON (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is learning the hard way that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Chronic quota-husting by several of its key members has forced the oil producers' group to abandon demands that other producers share the burden of stabilising world oil prices.

The lack of discipline and consistently weak oil prices has led most of OPEC to the reluctant conclusion that there is no room for it to raise its output ceiling in 1996, senior OPEC delegates say.

The delegates, from various influential OPEC members, say that unless prices improve substantially OPEC will decide at its November meeting to maintain the 24.52 million barrels per day (b/d) ceiling for at least the first half of next year.

"It would not just be stupid to raise the ceiling, it would be a crime given the cheating," a senior OPEC delegate said.

Most OPEC members, including those in the Middle East, want to optimise revenue rather than hike output quotas and enter a risky market share war with top oil producers outside the group.

The price of North Sea Brent is hovering around \$16.80 a barrel, well below

the year's peak of \$19.38 hit on May 1.

Oil traders and analysts warn that any OPEC ceiling rise might hit prices hard because of market perceptions that the group was abandoning its role as residual supplier.

"If they roll over (the ceiling), prices will strengthen since the market is able to absorb the current production even with the cheating. If they increase, they'll be looking at much lower prices," said Oystein Berentsen, head of crude oil trading for Norwegian oil giant Statoil.

Venezuela and Nigeria, two of the biggest oil producers in the 13-member OPEC, have steadily turned up the taps pushing overall OPEC output in August to its highest levels in 15 years.

According to a Reuters survey of industry officials and analysts inside and outside OPEC, the group pumped more than 25.7 million b/d last month, more than one million b/d above the official ceiling in place since September 1993.

The quota violations damage OPEC's case in trying to convince large producers outside the group like Norway and Mexico to help shoulder the burden of production restraint.

"What hope have we to convince non-OPEC to keep

production down if we cannot keep our own house tidy?" a Gulf source said.

Several OPEC delegates said when OPEC meets for its end-year session on Nov. 21 in Vienna, there will be no repeat of the harshly-worded threats it levelled at non-OPEC at its last meeting in June.

"There will be little if any mention of non-OPEC this time. OPEC will not enter a war of words nor will there be any threats of free for all," a senior OPEC Gulf delegate said.

Nor will OPEC lobby other producers for help when they meet for three days of wide-ranging but informal talks on broader energy issues later this month in Venezuela, the sources said.

"We have all but given up hope of any cooperation from non-OPEC. One cannot forget that many of them are net importers so demands for them to cut are not realistic," an OPEC delegate said.

Oil prices fell in June when incoming OPEC President Erwin Arieta said abandoning the quota system was one option open to OPEC to regain market share lost over the past two years.

Only last week, the International Energy Agency said demand for OPEC oil will average just 24.8 million b/d next year, well below cur-

rent output, despite a predicted surge of some 1.6 million b/d in overall world oil demand.

At the same time, increased supplies from the North Sea and key Latin American producers should help boost non-OPEC oil supply by a sharp 1.4 million b/d.

The incentive to maintain the status quo is fortified by the fact heavyweight OPEC producer Saudi Arabia is anxious to avoid heated haggling over increased individual quotas for the sake of raising the ceiling a few hundred thousand barrels per day.

"Everyone will be demanding a bigger share: of the ceiling and to (the Saudis) it is not worth the bother. No one will benefit," a Gulf source said.

This source argues that the Saudis are the only OPEC member losing potential market share because of the OPEC ceiling freeze since it is the only member sitting on substantial unused capacity.

Saudi output capacity is about two million b/d over its eight million b/d OPEC quota.

"The rest of OPEC is producing at or near capacity. The rest of the producers outside OPEC are producing at will so the only one losing market is Saudi Arabia," he said.

Dollar decisively clears 100 yen barrier

TOKYO (R) — The resurgent dollar finally made a decisive jump over the key 100 yen barrier in Tokyo Tuesday and headed for the next strategic point.

The dollar strode confidently beyond the psychological 100 yen level in early morning on buying by overseas funds and mark buying for yen through cross trading, hitting 100.85 yen in late afternoon, its highest level in Tokyo since January.

"Overseas funds' buying and yen-selling across the board were the main driving force," said a U.K. bank dealer in Tokyo.

Dealers in Tokyo said the dollar would challenge 101 yen 5000 as selling pressure by Japanese exporters was receding. This would make it possible for the dollar to break through this year's high of around 101.40 yen, which was marked on Jan. 4.

The 100 yen level appeared

an easy goal for the U.S. currency last Friday, when Japan's central bank slashed its already record-low key lending rate in half to 0.5 per cent and followed up with aggressive dollar-buying, which some dealers estimated totalled \$5 billion for the day.

But the dollar's rally had lost steam by Monday as the market was disappointed at a lack of coordinated intervention by other international monetary authorities.

Some Tokyo dealers attributed Tuesday's dollar rally to market talk that a high-ranking Japanese finance ministry official, in a meeting with bank dealers on Monday, implied he was looking for the dollar to strengthen more.

Although the dollar failed to reach 101 yen in Tokyo, its downside appeared quite solid. Cash-rich individuals were seen to be enthusiastic

about buying the Australian dollar and the German mark through securities houses, which limited the U.S. currency's falls against the yen.

"Individuals' foreign bond investments without currency hedging (against risks of dollar falls) has been increasing," said a dealer at a Japanese securities house in Tokyo.

"High-yielding financial products which individuals took up five years or so ago are maturing this year, and these cash-rich investors are hoping to reinvest their maturing funds in the foreign bonds," he added.

Yen deposits have become an even less attractive option for these funds, because local interest rates have fallen again following the discount rate cut.

A bond manager estimated that individuals' foreign bond investment in Tokyo had

totalled one trillion yen in the past month, much more than buying by institutional investors.

The German mark also rose on buying by U.S. funds and Japanese investors, hitting the 68 yen level for the first time since May 1993. The mark stood at 68.1821 yen at 0809 GMT against around 67.85 yen at its close in New York.

Dealers attributed the mark buying to investors' demand for mark-denominated bonds carrying higher interest rates than those on yen bonds. Investors were enthusiastic about an issue of mark-denominated bonds by the World Bank, they said.

An official at the World Bank's Tokyo branch said terms on the bond have not been set, but the issue volume was expected to be between two billion and three billion marks.

Money becomes the final battlefield at women's conference

BEIJING (AFP) — U.N. states carved their way through disputed text at the U.N. Women's Conference Tuesday, but remained sharply divided over a core issue: How to pay for their charter's finely-worded commitments.

While agreement on paper is expected Thursday on the cornerstone Platform for Action, delegates from developed and developing nations — as well as within these blocs — Tuesday still fought over sections on financial resources.

The dispute centres on efforts by the G-77 group of poorer nations to make donor countries' provision of "new and additional" resources a condition for implementing the document.

The Platform, due to be adopted on the conference's final day Friday, is a huge document, with recommendations ranging over health to legal reforms and

micro-economic measures.

"The G-77's moves are turning the Platform into a U.N. pledging document focusing on developing nations rather than a commitment to improve the status of women globally," complained one European diplomat.

A European Union (EU) delegate recognised the need of many developing countries for aid, but said his team would refuse wording that focused only on boosting these funds yet failed to stress reallocation of existing resources and the need to make full use of capital markets.

"The debate should be put in its proper context and not simply be a matter of more money from the North," he said, adding that the extreme

views of the United States on one side and African nations on the other would be difficult to reconcile.

Norwegian delegate Asbjorn Mathisen, whose country is committed to maintaining aid at least at existing levels, voiced concern at the position of the United States, where efforts to cut the budget deficit will trigger a sharp fall in overseas assistance in coming years.

"Norway and the EU are ready to use the same language as at (previous U.N. conferences) in Cairo and Copenhagen... but the Americans want language that is not so tied to money or resources," he said.

Instead, the U.S. delegation is pushing a radical view that rich nations should stop

vainly increasing assistance flows and instead promote more sustainable strategies for Third World development.

"We are kidding ourselves about the role of bilateral assistance," said U.S. delegate Melinda Kimble. "I don't believe any small country in Africa is going to have social development financed by aid flows — it's not sustainable even if it was doubled."

Ms. Kimble said discussions here should be about how to use available government and, more importantly, private resources "to unleash the potential of women and men everywhere."

"We have to find a way to empower communities to solve their own problems," she said, calling for money to be targeted directly at people rather than through governments.

U.S. trade deficit of \$43.6 billion is worst performance in history

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit shot up to \$43.6 billion for the last quarter, the worst performance in history.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that the deficit in the nation's current account climbed 11.8 per cent for the April-June quarter from a first-quarter deficit of \$39.03 billion.

The soaring trade deficit presents a political problem for the Clinton administration, which has made economic a key priority of its foreign policy.

It was the worst showing on record, topping the old mark of \$43.2 billion set in the final three months of last year.

The current account is the broadest measure of America's trading performance, measuring trade in merchan-

dise, services, investment flows and a category that includes America's foreign aid payments.

Through the first six months of this year, the current account deficit is running at an annual rate of \$165.24 billion, well above last year's deficit of \$151.25 billion.

The bad news on the current account confirms the trend that has been apparent in the government's monthly trade statistics, which measure trade in merchandise and services but not other categories.

America's worsening trade performance this year has come as something of a surprise to economists who believed that the slowing U.S. economy would cut into demand for foreign goods.

Some analysts blamed the problem on the fact that the

value of the dollar weakened considerably during the first half of the year.

While a weaker dollar normally acts to narrow the trade deficit over time by making U.S. goods cheaper and thus more competitive on overseas markets, the immediate impact often is to widen the deficit as foreign goods go up in price more quickly than demand for the products declines.

President Bill Clinton has insisted that the country must "compete, not retreat" globally and to this end he has pushed for trade liberalisation through a number of big trade agreements such as the free trade pact with Mexico and a 124-nation global trade pact.

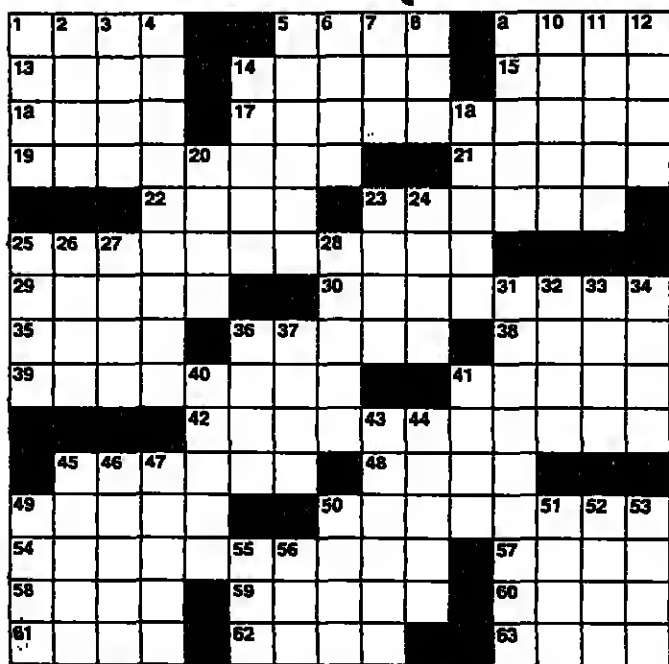
However, administration critics contend that this policy has been a failure and U.S.

workers are losing out to a flood of imports from cheaper wage countries.

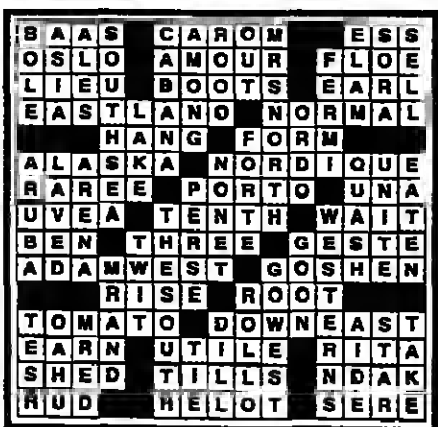
For the second quarter, the deficit in merchandise climbed to a record \$49.04 billion, \$4.84 billion above the first quarter figure. The surplus in services was up slightly to \$15.67 billion.

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

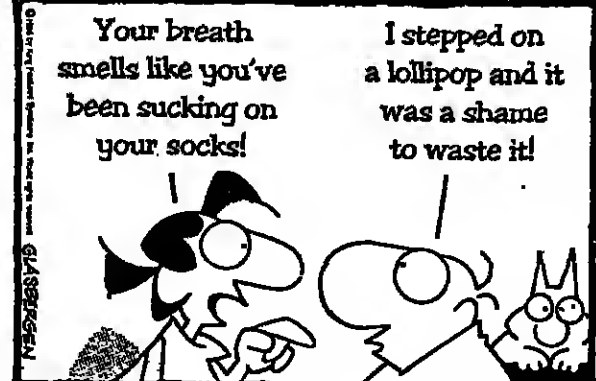
- ACROSS
- Artist Chagall
 - Gym
 - Strikebreaker
 - Washington office
 - Pianist Victor
 - Toddle-oo
 - Ms. Minnelli
 - Cross
 - In a future time
 - Portents
 - Cattle, old style
 - Humans
 - Delighted
 - Covered with
 - climbers
 - End of SASE
 - Slender
 - Mudville star
 - Part of AFL abbr.
 - Known by only a few
 - Doubleday
 - Newspaper section
 - Jostles
 - Westem
 - Samoan capital
 - Bobbin
 - Stage exit
 - Gulfaw
 - Cry of dismay
 - Fruit drinks
 - Sluggish Hank
 - Tusshingham or Gam
 - Turn down
 - Chatters
 - Erelong
- DOWN
- Espionage agent
 - Tel
 - Demolish
 - "Daily Planet" reporter
 - Served tea
 - Art deco name
 - Freudian term
 - Man in the ring, briefly
 - Baffle
 - Desert beast
 - Make amends
 - Ingots
 - Daniel or Pat
 - Philosopher and physicist
 - Clement
 - Deadly sin
 - Floor square
 - Composer
 - Charles
 - Farewell, in Florence
 - Joe of "Goodfellas"
 - Canadian dogs
 - Present prefix
 - Bird call
 - Fouls up
 - Boast
 - Sights targets
 - School, for Jules
 - "Take — from me"
 - Freight loads: var.
 - Cooperstown's Warren
 - Lyric poem
 - Sophia of movies
 - Domineering
 - Food fish
 - Ankara native
 - University in Athens
 - Aware of
 - Horse hue
 - Into (attack)
 - Drivers' org.



Yesterday's puzzle solved:

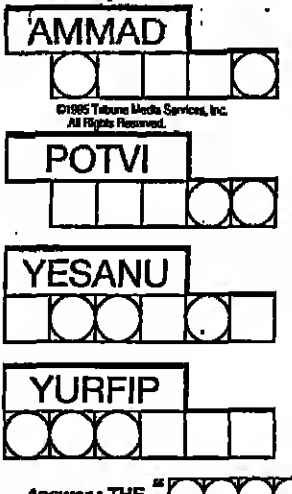


THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: THE " " OF THE " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARDOR LANKY METRIC HAGGLE
Answer: What they had when he won \$1,000 — A "GRAND" TIME

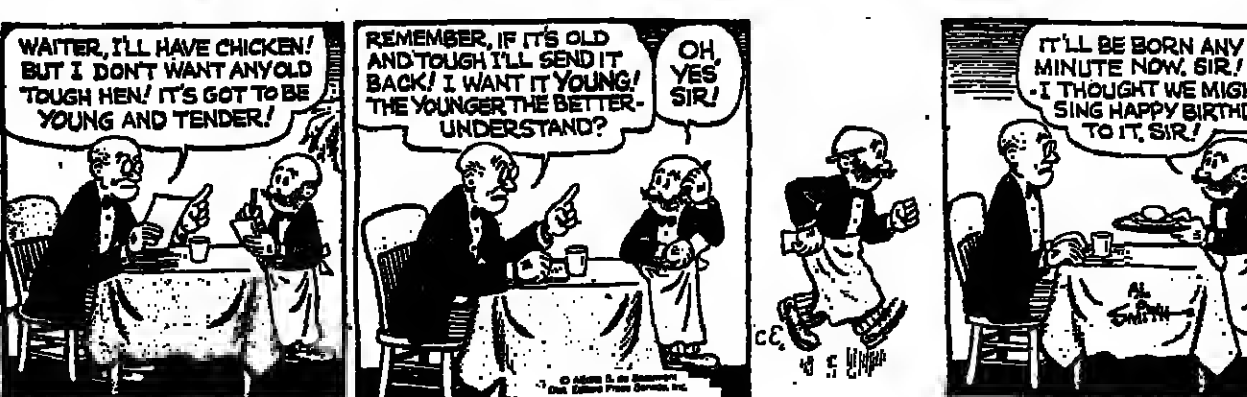
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Give more attention to what you know will please those who dwell with you, and show you are devoted.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Let usual partners be more aware of your loyalty and devotion to them and become more successful thereby.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find the right way to improve real estate and other possessions you may have. Study investments before you shell out any money.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You arise with a happy feeling and can make engagements which are very pleasing. Be with friends today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to contact the object of your affections and get good results, though this was difficult to do before today.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are bright and joyful today and should contact those persons you feel very compatible. Wear the right kind of clothes.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get into the world of activities early today and you can make much headway with your talents.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be alert to new conditions which can be very helpful to you later today. Listen to those with different ideas.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You today understand how you can be more efficient at your tasks and gain greater benefits, so full speed ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't be so bogged down with the practical today that you pay little heed to the needs of a partner.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan how to get your duties handled more intelligently and then you can make real progress. Get out socially this evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day for enjoying recreation which most pleases you. You have an opportunity to impress others with your talents.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Hopes fade for Tunisia's Tarajji after shock home defeat

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Holders Tarajji suffered a surprise home defeat by Ismailia in the African Champions' Cup quarter-finals at the weekend, leaving the Tunisians with little hope of

retaining the title. Egyptian Magdi Al Sayad scored the only goal with 12 minutes left at Al Menzah Stadium in Tunisia and 1999 champions Ismailia need only a draw at home later this

month to reach the last four. Ivorians ASEC, considered the team most likely to end a North African monopoly of the cup stretching back to 1984, emphasised their strength with a 2-0 vic-

mier Pan-African club competition. Dynamos of Zimbabwe defeated Express 1-0 Uganda through a 77th-minute penalty converted by veteran forward Moses Chungu.

African Champions' Cup Quarter-finals, first leg

Tarajji, Tunisia (holders) 0, Ismailia, Egypt 1
Abusai Goldfields, Ghana 0 ASEC, Ivory Coast 2
Mbilanga, Gabon, 2 Orlando Pirates, South Africa 1
Express, Uganda 0 Dynamos, Zimbabwe 1

Cup-Winners' Cup

DC Motema Pembe, Zaire, (holders) 1 Julius Berger, Nigeria 0
Blackpool, Zimbabwe 2 Young Africans, Tanzania 1
JS Kabylie, Algeria 3 Hearts of Oak, Ghana 1

Maxaquene, Mozambique bye, As Marsa, Tunisia, withdrew

CAF Cup

Etoile du Sahel, Tunisia 3 Ferrovialro, Mozambique 0
Malindi, Tanzania 0 Agaza, Togo 0

Played September 3

Djoliba, Mali 0 Inter Club, Congo 2
Asante Kotoko, Ghana 2 Kaloum Stars, Guinea 2

Second Leg: September 22-24.

AFRICAN SOCCER

tory in Ghana over Abuasi Goldfields.

Nigerian Akim Ogunlade and Congolese Florent Balo-ki were on target in the opening half of the Abidjan club, attempting to become the first champions from Ivory Coast since Stade Abidjan in 1966.

On a wonderful weekend for visiting sides in the pre-

Mbilanga were the only home winners, defeating newcomers Orlando Pirates of South Africa 2-1 in Gabon through a last-minute goal from Jones Oganaga, his fourth of the competition.

Cup-Winners' Cup holders Daring Club Motemba Pembe battled to break down Nigerians Julius Berger in Kinshasa.

Will NBA's '95 season begin Nov. 3?

NEW YORK (AP) — What happens after results are announced of the NBA players' vote to determine whether the players' union will be disbanded could turn on who wins and by how much.

The losers are likely to challenge the election results, erecting legal roadblocks that could delay the opening of training camp Oct. 6 and drag on past Nov. 3, when the season is scheduled to start.

Votes on decertifying the union were to be counted publicly by national labour relations board officials Tuesday. Both the union leadership and the group backing decertification, led by NBA stars Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing, were confident of victory.

Jordan and Ewing argue that players can get a more favourable labour agreement by dissolving the union and pursuing an antitrust lawsuit against the league.

In balloting on Aug. 30 and Sept. 7, players cast their votes in large numbers. The heavy turnout was believed to benefit the union.

A vote for retaining the union also is considered a vote for a proposed labour agreement, many players said they cast reluctantly. If the union wins the election, 21 of the league's 27 player representatives must still formally ratify the new deal Wednesday at a meeting in Chicago.

On Monday, Jeffrey Kessler, the lawyer representing Jordan, Ewing and other players in the decertification drive, sent a letter to union chief Simon Gourdine, saying his group is concerned Wednesday's meeting and possible vote "will be another rush to judgement that tries to avoid, instead of respect, the wishes of a majority of players."

"This would break the promise the union made... that all players would get a chance to vote on any proposed deal," Kessler wrote. Gourdine said the union's constitution provided for a ratification vote only by the player representatives.

"The proposed collective bargaining agreement has been in the hands of the players since shortly after Aug. 8," he said. "We think there has been ample opportunity for all of the players to have full and frank discussion of all of the terms of the proposed agreement."

The margin of the victory could well determine how the player representatives vote. In June, they killed a proposed agreement by tabling a vote.

However, union leaders have said they expect the deal to be ratified this time. That would clear the way for team owners to approve the agreement at a scheduled Sept. 18 meeting and lift the lockout that began July 1.

2nd division basketball teams play crucial matches today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Second division basketball teams play crucial matches Wednesday on the third day of competition in the 7-team tournament sponsored by Opel.

While Al Hussein and Gazet Hashem battle for top place in Group A in Irbid, Homenmen and Karak will fight it out in Group B in Amman to secure qualification to the second round.

Only seven teams are taking part in the competition at the end of which only one team will be promoted to the first division as the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) is trying to reduce the number of teams in the country's top division.

Al Hussein and Homenmen who were relegated last year, in addition to Al Yarmouk are the top contenders. However, Al Yarmouk seem to have the edge. Their team has prepared well as most of their players are on the Under-22 team which had qualified with the country's top teams — Ahli, Orthodoxi and Jazireh — to the U-22 final round which was played recently.

Accordingly, Al Yarmouk easily beat Al Karak 70-48 (41-28) in their first match, while

Homenmen stumbled and surprisingly lost their opening match 77-42 to Al Jeel. Later on, Homenmen lodged a complaint with the JBF as Al Jeel had a Yarmouk player on their team. The JBF checked its records and it turned out that a technical mistake at registration had dropped Al Yarmouk's player Murad Abida's name from his team's 1995 records and he thus played with Al Jeel despite the fact that he was still officially registered with Al Yarmouk.

The JBF decided to replay the match Sept. 17 and asked both Al Jeel and Yarmouk to adhere by rules in the future.

In other matches Gazet Hashem beat Al Ashrafieh 52-50, and Al Hussein beat Al Ashrafieh 100-87.

The competing teams are playing the first round in two groups. Group A plays in Irbid and includes Gazet Hashem, Ashrafieh and Hussein, while Group B plays in Amman and includes Jeel, Karak, Homenmen and Yarmouk.

The top teams in each group will play a knockout second round after which the winners will play the final match Sept. 30 to decide the team that will be promoted to the second division.

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan, announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on September 16, 1995 and will last for 16 weeks.

Classes are in the morning, 9:00 - 12:30, Saturday - Wednesday.
Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration or further information.
Registration begins on Sunday, Sept. 10, 1995 and ends on Saturday Sept. 16.

California Dates

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JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

announces the invitation to tender No. 36F/95

JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 36F/95 for the supply of:-

Modification of phosphate rock handling system by replacing four conveyor belts with two tubular type conveyor belts at fertilizer complex/Aqaba.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday 28 September, 1995. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (15) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday 17 October 1995.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAH HERSH
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THE CAREFUL SHALL PREVAIL

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 5 3

♥ Q 9 4

♦ K Q 2

♣ A 4 3 2

WEST

♠ K Q 10 4

♥ A 8 2

♦ A 8 2

♣ Q 7 3

SOUTH

♠ A

♥ A 7

♦ A J 10 9 8 4

♣ A K 5

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 1NT Pass

2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

3♠ Pass 5♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

A doctor can't prescribe a cure without being able to diagnose the disease. A bridge player can't find a solution if unaware that a problem exists.

Unless the opening lead establishes a heart trick for the defense, slam in clubs and game in diamonds appear to depend on a 3-2 club break. North-South did well to stop in the latter. When North showed little outside the diamond

suit, South decided that discretion was the better part of valor.

West led the king of spades, and it did not require a bridge genius to realize that, as long as clubs were 3-2 or West held the King of hearts, the contract was unbeatable. Therefore, declarer set out to see if a 4-1 club split could be neutralized. No sure way was available, but South spotted an interesting possibility.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand, led a middle trump to the king and ruffed a spade. Another trump to the queen drew both outstanding fangs while providing an entry to ruff the last spade high. Now declarer exited with a low club!

We would like to say that, sitting West, we would have shot up with the queen — a "crocodile coup" — and swallowed partner's jack. Truth be told, however, we would have followed low, as did West, and East was employed.

A spade return would yield a ruff-shut, so East was forced to return a heart. Declarer ducked that and, whether or not West held the king, the contract was secure — either the queen would win or furnish a discard for declarer's remaining low club.

Anti-fatigue herb to help Chinese divers

BEIJING (R) — In the 1996 Olympics, China's divers may no longer suffer the effects of exhaustion caused by a tight schedule, thanks to obscure Tibetan herbs, according to a southern Chinese newspaper seen in Beijing on Tuesday.

Chen Yiming, chief coach of China's national diving team, is mixing up a fatigue-relief tonic with extracts from Tibetan herbs, Guangzhou's Yangcheng evening news reported.

Chen plans to test his position on divers in competition

next May and to begin regular use at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, it said.

As a diver-turned-coach, Chen has seen working on his own anti-fatigue formula for 30 years in the belief a swift recovery from physical fatigue helps produce the best performance.

Chen visited the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, in July and met traditional Tibetan herbalist who introduced him to 10 herbs believed to have

properties to relieve exhaustion, including four to rebuild body strength and others to ease mental strain.

Chen reassured the newspaper that the herbs contained no form of stimulant.

A stream of Chinese athletes has tested positive for performance-exchanging drugs in international competition in recent years, including seven swimmers banned after the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games.



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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Courier, Sampras in Kooyong Classic

MELBOURNE (AFP) — U.S. Open semi-finalist Jim Courier will play in the Kooyong Tennis Classic, the lead-up event to the January 1996 Australian Open, organisers said Tuesday. Courier, who lost to eventual U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras at Flushing Meadows, joins Sampras and world No. 1 Andre Agassi in the eight-man round-robin event from January 10-13. Other players already contracted include Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Michael Stich, Wayne Ferreira and Stefan Edberg. The last place in the tournament will be filled by either Boris Becker, last year's winner Michael Chang or Australian Patrick Rafter. The Australian Open, next year's opening Grand Slam tournament, gets under way at Flinders Park on January 15.

Mandela invited to WBO bout

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela was Monday invited to Glasgow to watch South Africa's Jacob "Baby Jake" Matlala challenge Scotland's Paul Weir for the WBO world junior flyweight crown. The November 18 bout, billed as the Battle of the "Little Big Men," is expected to be fought before a sellout crowd at the 7,000-seat Kelvin Hall. Mandela, a keen amateur boxer in his youth and one of Matlala's most prominent fans, had been invited to the match, Scottish promoter Tommy Gilmour said. Mandela's office has not yet decided whether to accept the invitation. Matlala earned a name for himself in Glasgow when he beat Scottish hero Pat Clinton for the WBO flyweight title in May 1993.

100 people injured in soccer riot

DHAKA (AP) — Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to quell thousands of rioting soccer fans in a northern Bangladesh village, injuring at least 100 people, news reports said Monday. About 3,000 fans from two local rival clubs fought each other with rocks and sticks on Sunday at Thakrakona Village in Netrokona district, 80 miles (128 kilometres) north of Dhaka. The fighting erupted after a controversial foul decision during a game between Barhatta school team and Netrokona district team. The match ended in a 1-1 draw, Dhaka's Inqilab newspaper reported. Although Bangladesh's national team rarely qualifies for international events, soccer remains a popular game in the country.

British driver dies of injuries

BERLIN (AP) — British driver Keith Odor died Monday of injuries suffered when his Nissan was hit broadside by a car travelling 190 kilometres per hour (120 miles per hour) during Sunday's Super Touring car race on the Avus course in Berlin. The crash and Odor's death raised anew serious questions about using an improvised race course on the autobahn for such high-speed driving. Mayor Eberhard Diepgen said there should be a thorough investigation before ruling on future races on the Avus, as the stretch of the

autobahn is called. Odor's car appeared to be out of control as it came out of a curve. It grazed a barrier on the left side of the course, spun and hit the barrier on the right side. The car was almost stopped in the middle of the track when an Audi driven by Frank Biela of Germany smashed into it at top speed, striking directly into the driver's side of the Nissan. Rescuers took a half-hour to cut Odor out of the wreckage, and he was flown to the university clinic where he died of head injuries early Monday.

Tyson reaches settlement agreement

NEWARK (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson has reached a settlement agreement with a woman who accused him of sexual assault, his attorney said Tuesday. The settlement means Tyson would not have to interrupt his training in Las Vegas to appear in court Tuesday, when the civil trial was to begin. His accuser, Phyllis Polaner, former publicist for Tyson's ex-wife, and Tyson's attorneys agreed on a settlement Monday night, said John Trombadoro, his New Jersey attorney. "The case is closed. Mike is in training for his next fight and is very focused on staying on track," Trombadoro said. Polaner filed the civil suit against Tyson on Aug. 17, 1990, accusing the boxer of sexually assaulting her, beating her and threatening to kill her at different times during 1988. Polaner was working for Tyson's then-wife, actress Robin Givens, at the time.

Ferreira advances in Bordeaux tennis

BORDEAUX (AP) — Defending champion Wayne Ferreira of South Africa advanced to the second round of the \$400,000 passing shot tennis tournament Monday by defeating Dutchman Sjeng Schalken, 6-3, 6-4. Ferreira, seeded second, had a tough time winning last year. Due to rain throughout the first five days, Ferreira had to win four matches in 30 hours over the final weekend to take the title. In other first round matches, Dirk Norman defeated Belgian compatriot, Kris Goossens, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3; Jason Stoltenberg of Australia ousted French wild card, Olivier Mutis, 6-2, 6-2; Greg Rusedski the former Canadian now playing for Britain, topped American Jim Grabb, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 and former finalist in Bordeaux, Ronald Agenor of Haiti, eliminated Cristiano Caratti of Italy, 6-2, 7-5.

Leeds pair in injury scare

LEEDS (AP) — Leeds go to Monaco for Wednesday's UEFA Cup tie with doubts over Gary Kelly with an ankle injury and Carlton Palmer with an injury to his foot sustained when Leeds lost their unbeaten record at Tottenham on Saturday. Although they join the trip to the Principality a late decision will be made on their fitness. Manager Howard Wilkinson is hoping both will be fit in time, though winger Rod Wallace is again ruled out following a shin operation. David White, who deputised at White Hart Lane, is again expected to fill in on the right flank. Wilkinson said: "I am hoping Carlton and Gary will recover in time but it is too early to be sure. I just hope the players respond to Saturday's defeat in a positive manner against Monaco."

Sanders signs with Cowboys for \$35m

DALLAS (R) — The Dallas Cowboys made it official on Monday, formally announcing the signing of star cornerback Deion Sanders to a seven-year, \$35 million contract that includes a \$13 million signing bonus.

Appearing at a news conference in Texas Stadium, Sanders, wearing a Cowboys baseball cap and a blue pinstriped suit, suggested he could have gotten more money from another team. "But I truly want to be a Dallas Cowboy."

The contract with the 28-year-old Sanders — who will be the second-highest player on the team — has a voidable clause of five years at \$25 million at the team's discretion, the Cowboys said.

Sanders, who is also a professional baseball player with the San Francisco Giants, had also been courted by the San Francisco 49ers and Denver Broncos.

He said, "this wasn't a decision just based on finances," and suggested he was in Texas for the duration of his career.

The Cowboys, who pursued Sanders heatedly through drawn-out negotiations, are convinced he will help them win the Super Bowl in January. However, the high price tag for a part-time football player currently nursing a bad ankle has been the subject of hot debate.

Cowboys' coach Barry Switzer said the signing of Sanders — the 1994 National Football League defensive player of the year with the Super Bowl champion 49ers — was something "I've dreamed about for several weeks now."

"It's become a reality," Switzer said Monday. Sanders is considered one of the top five cornerbacks in the league and has played wide receiver and returned kicks on a limited basis.

He is known for his arrogance and swagger, and some observers are concerned that his huge contract will cause resentment among his new teammates.



Chess challenger Visy Anand (left) of India shakes hands with world chess champion Garry Kasparov from Russia as New York Mayor Rudolf Giuliani looks on at the start of the first game in their best of 20-game match in New York (AFP photo)

World Chess Championship opens atop World Trade Centre

NEW YORK (AFP) — Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand and Russian World Champion Garry Kasparov drew in 27 moves on Monday the first game of their PCA (Professional Chess Association) World Championship match held here atop the World Trade Centre.

"Spend your money," New York Mayor Rudolf Giuliani told spectators gathering for the match earlier in the day. "We'll collect taxes on what you spend," he added.

The Republican, a staunch advocate of business in New York, thanked Kasparov for organising the tournament on the 107th story of the Manhattan landmark's twin towers.

Robert Brice, executive director of the PCA — the association founded two years ago when Kasparov broke off from the International Chess Federation, touted the role computer maker Intel played in supporting the championship.

Intel has plowed four million dollars into the PCA this year, including some 1.5 million for the championship tournament, according to press reports. The winner will take two thirds of the prize and the loser the rest.

But a number of tourists were far from thrilled Monday with the skyrocketing price of admission in the observation floor, which has been increased from 3.50 dollars to 15 dollars during the title tournament.

"I don't give a (expletive) about their game. I'm here for the view," complained an elderly tourist from the Midwest.

But chess enthusiasts seem to have no problem in paying 75 dollars for one of 30 privileged seats in front of the glass, soundproof cage where the champions will slug it out four days a week.

Some 120 other chess experts and fans, notebooks and chessboards in hand, follow each move on several giant television screens set up in the area which experienced some technical glitches on Monday.

"The official statement is that I'm written out sick," said a 40-year-old businessman who was hiding behind a potted plant from probing television cameras.

"I hope there will be a winner before the end of the month, otherwise I'll be in trouble," he added.

The flamboyant Kasparov, 32, is favoured to win the tournament, but the public openly roots for Visy, his quiet and serious-looking 25-year-old rival, considered the most talented chess player of his generation.

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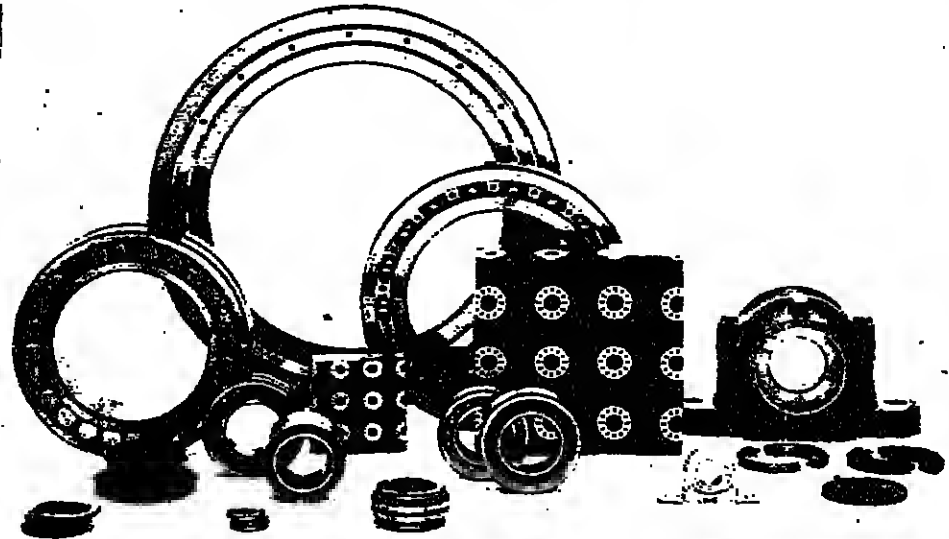
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Sudanese take to streets demanding freedoms

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Thousands of students and civilians took to the streets in protest for a second day Tuesday, and police responded with tear-gas to try to quell the demonstrations. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

Government-backed newspapers blamed the outlawed Communist Party and foreign-based opposition groups for the unrest, which left at least 10 people injured on Monday. It was unclear if the injuries were caused by shoving, tear-gas or police opening up with live ammunition.

Residents of Khartoum confirmed that there was renewed rioting in parts of the capital on Tuesday, but gave no details.

In dispatch from Khartoum, MENA said that Sudanese security forces filled the streets of the downtown and neighbouring Omdurman and set up checkpoints at crossroads and bridges to block the demonstrators. Reservists were called to duty, it said.

MENA said the protesters called for political freedom and shouted slogans against the government and Islamic leader Hassan Tourabi, who is believed to be the power behind the government in Sudan.

Some of the demonstrators marched to one of Dr. Tourabi's offices, but he was not there, MENA said.

On Monday, the rampage began at Khartoum University and spread to a nearby market. Rioting results in thousands of dollars in damage to cars and banks, Sudanese newspapers reported.

A number of students were arrested, but no exact figure has been released by the government.

Official Radio Omdurman quoted an unnamed Sudanese security official on Tuesday as saying the demonstrations were organised by the Communist Party. The radio also blamed unidentified "foreign quarters."

It was an apparent reference to Eritrea, which hosted a conference of Sudanese opposition groups earlier this summer.

The security official charged that the students behind the unrest were trying to implement resolutions of the Asmara, Eritrea conference, which called for the overthrow of the military government of General Omar Al Bashir.

A spokesman for the opposition Umma Party in Cairo said "violent demonstrations broke out in the downtown Khartoum around noon (0900 GMT) and others in Wad Madani and Port Sudan."

MENA reported: "Security forces have closed off traffic in main arteries and bridges in the Sudanese capital to stop workers and government employees from joining the demonstrations."

"Thousands of students from the capital's three universities participated and were joined by thousands of citizens."

Protesters marched to the headquarters of the Council of International Friendship, thinking Dr. Tourabi was there, but guards at the building convinced them he was not, MENA added.

"A huge number" of university students and residents joined in the protests in Khartoum in which several cars were smashed, Salah Galal, another Umma member said.

Police fired live ammunition into the air but "they have refused to fire on the protesters themselves," Mr. Galal said, citing sources within the Sudanese police.

Authorities called out military police from the army to protect "sensitive locations" in the city, such as gas stations and banks, Mr. Galal said.

Earlier, Sudanese state radio said the situation in Khartoum had been "fully controlled" after some 3,000 students took to the streets along with residents on Monday protesting an increase in bread prices and calling for the regime's fall.

The Egyptian daily Al Jomhuriya reported that Sudanese police fired on demonstrators on Monday with live ammunition and tear-gas, "leaving eight people unconscious and injuring 15 others."

Dozens of students were

arrested in the protests, the Arab daily Al Hayat reported.

Students also held demonstrations in Khartoum's sister city Omdurman on the opposite side of the Nile River, lasting four hours. Al Hayat said, adding that "gunfire lasting 20 minutes was heard from the city."

The Sudanese daily Al Engaz Al Watani said students on Monday gathered "in a peaceful demonstration in central Khartoum which then turned into subversion and rioting at which point the police responded with tear-gas."

The Sudanese press said "a limited number of rioters and saboteurs" joined the protests, "burning five motor-cycles, destroying a number of cars and stoning the front of several banks."

Police intervened with tear-gas after demonstrators began stoning passers-by, "injuring a number of citizens including a judge," Al Engaz Al Watani said.

Protesters chanted: "The people are hungry, Bashir you coward" and "Tourabi must enter the Kober," referring to a Sudanese prison, Al Jomhuriya said.

The priests came after reports that the price of bread would be increased due to a doubling of what prices over the past month, Al Hayat said.

Sudanese Finance Minister Al Haj Attalman announced last Friday that bread prices would rise by 30 per cent to keep up with rising wheat prices.

Gen. Bashir took power in a military coup in 1989, ousting the elected government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi. He immediately banned political parties and installed an Islamic regime with the backing of Dr. Tourabi.

Last month, Gen. Bashir said he would release all political prisoners. Among those freed was Dr. Mahdi, who has been under virtual house arrest for the past six years and had been jailed for more than three months.

Sudan has been plagued by chronic food and commodities shortages and soaring inflation. There have been reports in recent days of a severe shortage of bread.



CROWN PRINCE MEETS GONZALEZ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday receives Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez for a breakfast meeting. The key theme for the meeting was Jordan's vision of cooperation with Europe, including Spain, and potential for investment in Jordan (see page one)

Egypt says it reserves right to 'self-defence' against Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt said it had the right to self-defence against Sudan as the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) blamed Khartoum for an attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak, an Egyptian paper reported Tuesday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa urged members of an emergency OAU meeting in Addis Ababa to "stand together against Sudan's behaviour" in support of Islamic militants, the daily Al Ahram said.

Mr. Musa stressed to the committee for conflict prevention "Egypt's legitimate right to self-defence against Sudan," the paper said.

The committee issued a statement calling on Sudan to end its support of "terrorism" and to hand over three men wanted by Ethiopia for the June 26 attack on Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Sudan has denied any involvement in the attack from which Mr. Mubarak escaped unscathed.

Mr. Musa told Al Ahram the panel had asked the United Nations "to follow developments in the investigations."

He also presented the panel with a list of 20 camps in Sudan for training armed Islamic extremists, the paper said.

An unnamed African diplomat said the meeting, scheduled to focus on the

conflict on Burundi, had "turned into an open trial of the Sudanese government."

In its statement the OAU called on "all governments, and in this case the government of Sudan, to desist from engaging in activities of assisting, supporting and facilitating terrorist activities and from giving shelter and sanctuary to terrorist elements."

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin said the attack on Mr. Mubarak "was an operation which was supported, assisted and facilitated by the security organs of Sudan," OAU sources said.

"There are also strong indications that diplomatic cover was used," he added.

He described the gun attack on Mr. Mubarak's motorcade as "a criminal act" which Ethiopia could reasonably and legitimately claim the right of self-defence.

"The evidence is overwhelming that Sudanese security officials were deeply involved in the assassination attempt on the life of the Egyptian president," Mr. Seyoum told the extraordinary session of the OAU conference body.

Ethiopia raised the issue unexpectedly at the one-day special session called to discuss what OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim has described as "the looming catastrophe" in Burundi.

Sudan is not a member of the OAU's 16-nation conflict resolution body, but its ambassador to Ethiopia, Osman Al Sayed Fadel Al Sayed, attended the session as an observer.

He told the body his government was not informed in advance that the issue would be raised at the session and therefore he could not respond in detail to the Ethiopian accusations.

Mr. Seyoum said Ethiopia decided it had no option but to raise the issue and make the accusations against Sudan at the session.

"The alternative would have been to ignore this involvement in what can only be termed as state-sponsored terrorism... against an African head of state. The crime is unprecedented in the whole history of inter-African relations," said Mr. Seyoum.

A Sudanese government committee denied Monday that Sudan was sheltering two of the wanted men.

It said the third had entered Sudan before the assassination bid on a forged passport. He would be handed over once he was caught, although he might already have left the country.

Reports in the Arabic daily Al Hayat Monday quoted Sudanese distance himself from Islamic hardliners and reduce the influence of spiritual guide Hassan Torabi.

Rabin to protest Russian nuclear sale to Iranians

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is to protest Russia's plans to sell nuclear reactors to Iran during a visit to Moscow during which he also hopes to boost military and economic ties.

"Rabin will drive home his opposition to the supply of reactors, which Tehran could use to build atomic bombs," senior foreign ministry official Dan Orian told AFP on Tuesday.

Mr. Rabin, who kicked off a two-day mission to Ukraine on Tuesday, is to fly to Russia on Wednesday for a 24-hour visit.

Moscow announced last week that it had signed a contract to provide two more reactors for the Bushehr nuclear plant in southern Iran.

A first contract for a 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactor worth almost \$1 billion was signed at the beginning of this year.

The United States and Israel have voiced concern over such deals, accusing Iran of seeking to obtain nuclear weapons.

Tehran, which strongly opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process, insists its nuclear programme has only civilian purposes.

Mr. Rabin is expected to meet Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev during his stay in Moscow.

But a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is on holiday, is not on the cards. The daily Yediot Aharonot said here that Mr. Yeltsin had turned down an Israeli request for a meeting.

Mr. Orian said: "The main aim of (Rabin's) visit is to develop economic relations with Ukraine and Russia and to reassure Moscow on its role in the Middle East peace process."

"Economic ties remain modest in relation to their potential," he said, adding Israel wanted to "lift obstacles to projects already drawn up."

Israel is concerned that Russia may feel distanced from the peace process," Mr. Orian said.

"On the political level, Israel believes Russia has an important role to play in the peace process which it jointly sponsors with the United States, even if the latter is getting all the limelight," he said.

Israel wants to avoid Russia "throwing a spanner in the works (of the peace process) if it feels sidelined," he said, adding Moscow could help the Jewish state to get its peace talks with Syria off the ground.

In Kiev Mr. Rabin was to meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Yevgeny Marchuk and Defence Minister Valery Chumakov and was expected to sign a series of bilateral accords.

Two years ago the two countries drew up technological projects but they have yet to be implemented. He was also to meet representatives of Ukraine's 500,000-strong Jewish community and visit Babi Yar, site of one of the worst massacres of Jews during World War II.

Some 300,000 Ukrainian Jews have moved to Israel in the past six years and the Jewish state hopes to encourage further immigration.

Mr. Rabin also signed a technological cooperation accord with Moscow during his first visit to Russia in April 1994 but that too has remained a dead letter.

Officials say it cannot be implemented while Russia still prevents the sale of arms and planes to Israel.

Israel exported goods worth \$72 million to Russia in 1994, while its imports stood at \$32 million.

Chinese deal
China is negotiating the financial arrangements for selling Iran two 300-megawatt nuclear reactors, the Chinese ambassador to Tehran, Huaili Ming, said in an interview Tuesday.

The conservative Iranian newspaper Rassefat quoted the ambassador as saying the two countries signed an accord on the sale of the reactors during Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's visit to China in 1992.

Lung cancer death rises among women smokers

NEW YORK (AFP) — The rate of women smokers dying of lung cancer increased sixfold from the 1960s to the 1980s, according to a new study. The rate rose from 26 to 155 per 100,000, while for male smokers it nearly doubled from 187 to 341 per 100,000, said Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Thun and fellow researchers from the Emory University School of Public Health found there was no increase among non-smokers. They compared the findings of two large studies sponsored by the Cancer Society, one from 1959 to 1965 and another from 1982-88. The increases occurred despite the introduction of lower-tar cigarettes and filters. Any benefits provided by such cigarettes for older smokers "have been apparently overwhelmed by more potent adverse changes in smoking behavior and perhaps other factors," the researchers said.

Indian court rejects actor's plea for bail

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Supreme Court said Tuesday it had rejected a plea for bail by film star Sanjay Dutt, arrested in a bomb blast case more than a year ago. The court, which treated a letter by Dutt from prison as a writ petition, said, however, he could challenge the judgement of a Bombay court which rejected his third plea for bail Monday. In his letter, Dutt said he believed it would take 15 to 16 years for his defence evidence to be completed in the Bombay court. Dutt sought a modification of an earlier ruling of Sept. 23, 1994 by the Supreme Court which said he could apply for bail after a special court heard his defence. The special court, set up in 1993 after a series of bomb attacks which killed nearly 300 people in Bombay, has been trying several accused in the case, including Dutt. Dutt is accused of purchasing an assault rifle from the main suspects in the bombings.

Passengers mutiny when hurricane ruins cruise
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hundreds of passengers on a cruise ship that skipped exotic Mexican ports to dodge a hurricane mutinied when the captain denied them refunds, refusing to leave the ship and chanting, "hell, no, we won't go." The captain called police and threatened to impound the passengers' luggage. Finally, after six hours of protesting Sunday, they picked up their bags and went home. "They had to know about the weather, but they said everything was fine until we were out to sea," said Claudette Maiden, on her first vacation in 10 years with her husband, Rodell. Their tickets totaled \$1,700. Most of the 1,700 passengers realised the change in plans was for the best, and the complainers were a noisy minority. Carnival spokeswoman Jennifer De La Cruz said from Miami. Carnival offered discounts on future trips and a \$40 shipboard credit during the cruise. The Jubilee left on a seven-day cruise to Mexico on Sept. 3 as hurricane Henriette was bearing down on Baja California. The next day, the captain announced that the storm had forced a change in the itinerary. Instead of steaming into Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, the ship cruised the southern California coast with stops in San Diego, Ensenada, Mexico and Catalina Island. It returned Sunday. Maiden acknowledged that the contract she signed gave the captain the right to make last-minute changes because of weather. But, she said, "I didn't think that meant we would go around in circles for seven days."

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNICEF urges Taliban to allow women to work

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday called on Afghanistan's Islamic Taliban movement, whose forces captured the city of Herat a week ago, to allow women to return to work and girls to attend school there. "Local authorities are not allowing women to work in public positions except for nurses and other health staff," Margharita Amodeo, UNICEF spokeswoman, told a news conference in Geneva. "Although schools have reopened, female teachers and girls are not being allowed to enter schools," she added. U.N. agencies have expressed their concern to the Taliban's leadership, whose forces captured the key Western city from pro-government troops on Sept. 5. An Afghan woman employed as a UNICEF project officer in Herat has not been allowed to return to work since then, according to the spokeswoman.

Foreigners behind Bahrain unrest — premier

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa said on Monday that acts of violence in Bahrain were instigated by foreign powers. "This Highness asserted that there are foreign hands behind the incidents that Bahrain witnessed recently," the official Gulf News Agency said, but did not elaborate. It said Sheikh Khalifa was speaking at a meeting with editors of Bahraini newspapers.

Fateh officer stabbed to death in Lebanon

SIDON (R) — The body of an officer of the Fateh group was found on Tuesday near a South Lebanon refugee camp and security sources said he was stabbed to death. They said Lebanese troops discovered the bloody body of Maarouf Abu Hamed, a 40-year-old Fateh officer, in the early morning on the seashore near Rashidiyyeh camp, just south of the port of Tyre, 76 kilometres south of Beirut. It was not immediately known who was behind the killing.

Ciller helicopter kills policeman

ISTANBUL (AFP) — A Turkish policeman died Tuesday after being struck by the rotor of a helicopter carrying Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, hospital officials said. Salim Gonen was hit by the rear rotor blade of the helicopter as it was landing at a heliport near a school which Ciller was due to open. He received serious head, neck and shoulder injuries and was taken to the nearby International Hospital. He underwent surgery but died of his injuries, a hospital spokesman said. Ms. Ciller, accompanied by Education Minister Nevzat Ayaz and the chief of police in Istanbul, stayed in the police helicopter until the ambulance left to take Gonen to hospital. She was informed of his death at the hospital when she went to visit him.

Egyptian editor under probe

CAIRO (AP) — The prosecutor general has launched an investigation of the editor of the opposition Al Shaab newspaper for an article he wrote on alleged corruption by a government official. Opposition newspapers said Tuesday that editor Magdi Ahmad Hussein has been called to answer questions on Saturday before the country's chief attorney. The twice weekly Al Shaab, published by the Islamic-oriented opposition Labour Party, is one of the main opposition papers in Egypt. Mr. Hussein is being investigated for an article he wrote last July in which he criticised a minister for corruption and accused the minister's son of taking advantage of his father's position. The minister's name was not revealed in the article.

PKK hits N. Iraqi border position

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish separatist Kurds attacked a border post in northern Iraq wounding two Turkish army drivers in a four-hour shootout, the Anatolia agency said Tuesday.

In a story dated from Zakho, in northern Iraq, the agency said that militants from the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) had opened fire late Monday from hills near the Ibrahim Khalil post on the Iraq-Turkey border.

Gunfire erupted between the PKK and Iraqi Kurds from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which controls the border area.

Three villages between the border town of Zakho and Dohuk were also attacked by the PKK leading to clashes with Iraqi Kurds, the agency said.

One thousand lorries cross through the border post daily carrying Iraqi oil in exchange for food, in a practice tolerated by the United Nations despite the five-year sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait.

PKK rebels began attacking KDP militias at the end of August in a bid to wreck a U.S.-sponsored accord between rival Iraqi Kurds who have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

The PKK has accused the KDP, led by Massud Barzani, of supporting Turkey's bid to wipe out the separatists who have waged an 11 year battle for an independent homeland in southeast Anatolia.

The KDP and its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, were due to hold talks in Dublin Tuesday to follow up on their accord reached in Drogheda, Ireland, on Aug. 11.

PKK rebels killed two state-paid village guards in separate raids in Turkey's eastern province of Tunceli, army officers said.

Kabul shrugs off Pakistani demand

KABUL (AFP) — The Afghan government Tuesday shrugged off Pakistan's demand for an apology over a mob attack on its embassy here which left one Pakistani dead and injured the ambassador and several others.

An official statement countered a demand by Pakistan for the restoration of its embassy, which was gutted in the Sept. 6 attack, and for full protection for diplomats and staff, claiming that a Pakistani diplomat had fired on the crowd sparking the attack.

"If an apology is the issue, first of all the Pakistani authorities should apologise for the bullets fired by their diplomat and the murder of an Afghan," the Afghan Foreign Ministry statement said.

During the attack, a Pakistani messenger was killed and Ambassador Qazi Humayun and 28 other staff were injured. They were evacuated to Islamabad the following day.

The statement also protested the alleged involvement of Pakistan's intelligence agency in the fall of the key western Afghan city of Herat to the rebel Taliban Islamic student militia on Sept. 3.

Islamabad had denied the alleged shooting, saying that no embassy staff were armed, as well as involvement with the Taliban.

But the Foreign Ministry has kept up its condemnation of Pakistan, saying in the statement that it was "unprecedented" for "a diplomat accredited to another country to pull the trigger of a rifle."

France: New Zealand abusing World Court

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — France angrily accused New Zealand on Tuesday of misusing the International Court of Justice as a forum for political protest against French nuclear tests instead of to present legal arguments.

Foreign ministry lawyer Marc de Brichambaut, opposing New Zealand's bid to get the U.N. court to ban the tests in the South Pacific atoll of Mururoa, said Wellington's legal team had falsely played on public fears of nuclear contamination.

"Your court is not a tribunal of opinion. New Zealand has directed itself to world public opinion... and presented an apocalyptic vision," he told the court's 14 judges.

Mr. De Brichambaut said France, which does not recognise the court's jurisdiction, had agreed to take part in preliminary hearings to determine whether New Zealand could reopen an earlier case it brought against French tests in the 1970s.

"The French government has come to give its views on that topic and that topic alone. I am afraid we have been deceived."

He expressed confidence however that the court would rule in France's favour and that New Zealand's case would run no further than the current preliminary phase.

New Zealand ultimately hopes to obtain a ruling banning the tests by reopening a case which it brought together with Australia against French atmospheric nuclear tests over 20 years ago.

In 1974 the court decided it no longer needed to hand down a judgment because France had announced it would not carry out any

further atmospheric tests. New Zealand is now seeking to invoke a clause of this ruling which provides for a review if there is a change in the circumstances on which the court based its decision.

On Monday New Zealand Attorney General Paul East called for a swift end to the French tests, saying they could cause irreparable damage to the region's fragile marine environment.

France held the first of a planned series of eight underground nuclear tests in Mururoa last week, triggering fierce protests around the world.

The court is expected to conclude preliminary hearings later on Tuesday and to decide within the next few weeks whether there are grounds for a review of its 1974 ruling.

The International Court of Justice is the main judicial organ of the United Nations.

In Brussels, France's European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier pledged Tuesday to reply to European Commission demands for extra data on French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, but he did not say when the information would be made available.

"We are currently preparing the reply we will make to the European Commission," Mr. Barnier told reporters in Brussels.

He gave no date for the French government's response.

The French government had already in August organised a meeting in Paris between European Union (EU) experts and French officials concerning the impact of nuclear tests on the environment.

(Continued on page 7)